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Yes, prime ministers
Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu (left) is welcomed to 10 Downing Street yesterday by his British counterpart, Tony Blair. Page 2.

Iraq expels US arms inspectors

Clinton: Challenge to world community

By HILLEL KUTTNER, MARILYN HENRY, ARIEH O'SULLIVAN, and news agencies

Iraq expelled six American arms inspectors to Jordan late last night, the Iraqi news agency INA reported.

"The six American inspectors working within the UN inspection teams have left Baghdad for Amman by land at 11 p.m. this evening," INA said.

INA said the departure of the Americans was in line with the decision of the "Revolutionary Command Council" which was issued today. Iraqi television showed the inspectors leaving in a convoy of three cars. The other inspectors are due to leave by air today.

The UN, rather than segregating the Americans, is pulling all but a skeletal staff of weapons inspectors from Iraq today, chief weapons inspector Richard Butler said in New York. The US went back to the Security

Council yesterday, seeking unspecified action to tell Iraq it cannot throw out American members of UN inspection teams with impunity.

President Bill Clinton pledged that he would work to prevent Iraq's expulsion of members of the UN team inspecting

in the entire Gulf War," Clinton said. "It is important to the safety of the world that they continue their work. I intend to pursue this matter in a very determined way."

Clinton said the Security Council's resolution on the matter Wednesday night sent the "right message" for Iraq to "comply now with the UN resolutions and let the UNSCOM inspection team go back to work."

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright consulted with US allies on how to respond to the latest Iraqi threat. She and UN Ambassador Bill Richardson spoke on a US initiative for further a further UN statement or condemnation that, in the words of her spokesman James Rubin, will "demonstrate to Saddam Hussein that this attempt to divide the world has failed" and that "there's only one way out: to comply with the UN and allow the inspectors to do their jobs."

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan assured Albright in a noon phone call that "the world stands united in demanding that Saddam Hussein reverse course," Rubin said.

He also said that Congress's failure so far this week to approve payment of \$900 million in back UN dues will have repercussions, making it "harder and harder to get support at the UN for this important national security matter."

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai urged Israelis to relax amid the growing tensions between the US and Iraq, saying last night that we have nothing to worry about.

"Israelis can be calm. We will follow events," Mordechai said. "And whatever needs [to be done] will be done in coordination with the United States."

He added that the US and the UN have the power to enforce their demands.

See IRAQ, Page 22

Declassified report: Raviv was violent provocateur

By LIAT COLLINS

Previously classified material from the Shamgar Report on the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin depicts Avishai Raviv as a violent provocateur, who was asked by his General Security Service handlers to actively protect the peace process, whose actions discredited legal, political groups, and who failed to even hint at Yigal Amir's declared intention to harm Rabin.

Although Raviv was constantly cautioned by his handlers, he was not stopped, it says. The report also shows Rabin was aware of

the threat to him but did not, as the person ministerially in charge of the GSS, order tighter security arrangements.

The two declassified sections published yesterday deal with

Raviv revealed, Page 3

Raviv and the supervision of the GSS by the Prime Minister's Office.

"Avishai Raviv was connected to the GSS as an agent from 1987," the report reads. "During the period of his activities, which was assessed as effective, he was also caught at many incidents of lawbreaking, including acts of violence, and despite warnings

from those in charge of him he did not stop them.

"In conversations it was made clear to him that he would not receive backing if he broke the law, but, in effect, no legal proceedings were opened against the aforementioned in all these years (except in one case - the attack on MK [Tamar] Gozansky) - despite the fact that from the start his actions included physical attacks, attacks on property, conspiring to burn an apartment, and different types of harassment.

"Thus he organized 'night patrols' on the Jerusalem-Hebron road, during which he and his friends masqueraded as policemen, struck Arab residents, carried out body searches, and more."

See RAVIV, Page 12

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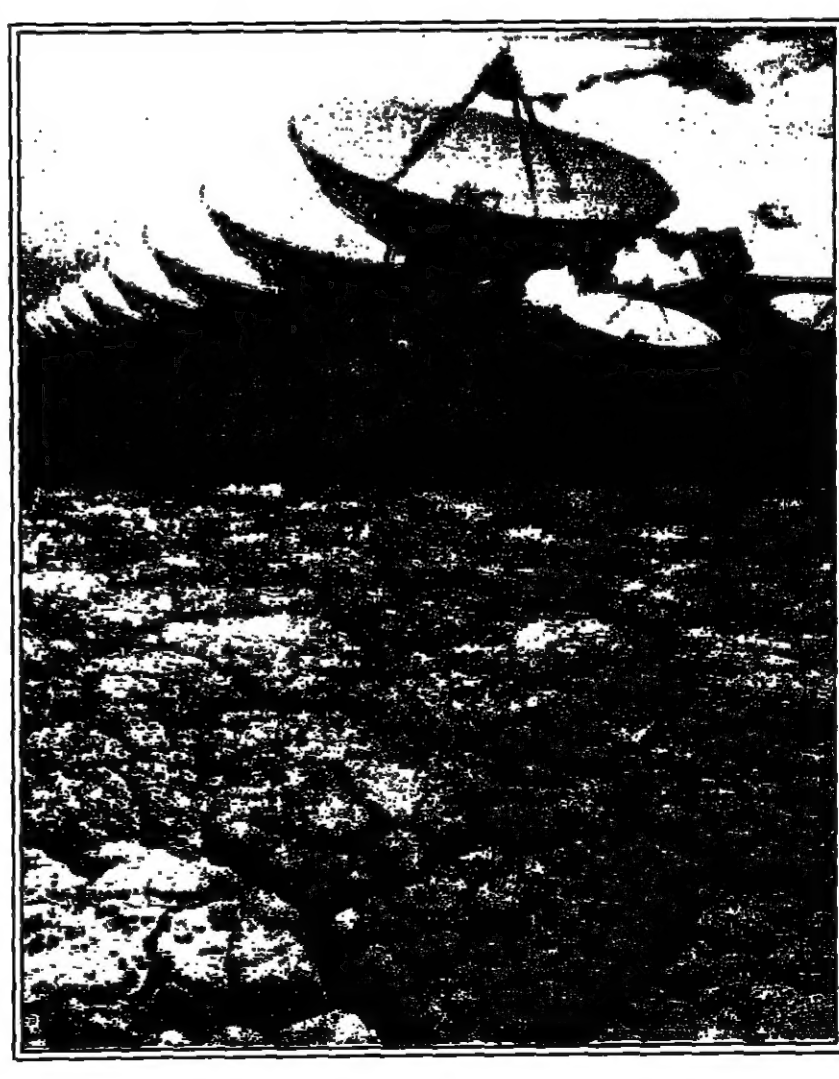
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NEWS

in brief

Congress OKs bill with Israel's allocation

After months of debate, Congress passed the final versions of the foreign operations bill that includes Israel's \$3 billion economic and military packages.

It will now be sent to the White House for Clinton's signature, after which Israel will receive its "early payment" of its entire package.

An Israeli Embassy official lauded the development, stating that "it has again shown that the American interest in strengthening Israel and supporting it continues, as demonstrated by Congress's bipartisan support."

The bill maintains Egypt's funding level at \$2.1b., while raising Jordan's allocation to \$225 million. The bill also withholds money from the Palestinian Authority unless the president certifies that it is in the US "national interest" for the PA to receive it. *Hillel Kuttler*

Terror suspects arrested in Samaria

The IDF Spokesman confirmed reports that several Palestinians were arrested by security forces in Samaria last night. They are suspected of involvement in terror activities. *Margot Dudkevitch*

New Ma'aleh Adumim road being built

A new road is being built to lay the foundation of a new neighborhood of 350 housing units in Ma'aleh Adumim, Channel 2 reported last night.

The Housing Ministry confirmed the new road is being built but said there are no immediate plans to build a neighborhood and no authorization for such plans from Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

"It is only a road," said Housing Ministry spokesman Moshe Eilat.

Eilat said the road was being built to more efficiently connect Jerusalem and Ma'aleh Adumim. *AP*

Adani discharged for role in Rabin murder

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai yesterday approved the recommendation of Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak that Sgt. Dror Adani be stripped of his rank and dishonorably discharged from the army. Adani was convicted last year of conspiring to kill prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and of weapons charges. He was sentenced to seven years in prison. Adani's discharge follows that of the Amir brothers, the IDF Spokesman's Office said. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Illegal homes destroyed

The Civil Administration destroyed two illegally built Palestinian homes in the villages Bani Naim and Beit Omar, near Hebron, yesterday. *Margot Dudkevitch*

'Jane's': Iraq has hidden A-bomb material

LONDON (AP) - Iraq still has the scientific talent and industrial base to build nuclear weapons and there is some evidence that it has hidden "a good deal" of bomb-making material, *Jane's Intelligence Review* reported yesterday.

An eight-page report in the magazine's December issue details how close Saddam Hussein came to building a bomb before the 1991 Gulf War - and concludes that Iraq still has nuclear ambitions although Iran may be ahead in the race to build a bomb.

Jane's Intelligence Review, part of the authoritative military publishing group, said Iraqi defectors and sources close to the International Atomic Energy Agency have indicated that the Iraqis still maintain an active nuclear weapons program.

The scientific and industrial infrastructure to build a bomb are in place and hundreds of employees of the nuclear establishment remain on permanent standby, supported by the government as if they were working full-time, the magazine said.

"Also, while it is acknowledged that much of the material intended for use in building a nuclear bomb has been either uncovered or destroyed, there is

some evidence that a good deal remains hidden," it said.

Jane's cited indications of some kind of "technical cooperation" between Iraq and its former enemy Syria, which Israeli intelligence sources suggested could include joint development of weapons of mass destruction.

"While it is too early to speculate about a nuclear link, it could be a feasible scenario for the next decade, especially if UN sanctions on Iraq remain rooted," *Jane's* said.

"There is little doubt that Syria has shown a distinct interest in acquiring weapons of mass destruction of its own. By early 1997 it had topped some of the Scud C missiles deployed along its southern [Israeli] front with Sarin nerve gas," the magazine said.

Although frequent UN inspections have prevented Iraq from conducting nuclear weapon development work at declared sites, there is significant evidence from defectors and others that scientists are working elsewhere in violation of UN Security Council resolutions, *Jane's* said.

The Iraqis have barred inspectors from entering many sites, giving them time to remove incriminating evidence, it said.

Winning numbers

In yesterday's weekly Payis Hazak drawing ticket number 416702 won NIS 1 million, while ticket number 249836 won the car. Tickets 330926, 053547, 282533, 424796, 228238, 243063, 722908, 050653 won NIS5,000.

Tickets ending in 23601, 40119, 06919, 87136, 75406, 36483, 48679, 86849, 43234, 06919, 055026, 54075, 68407, 49292, 87136, 83805, 94262, 00655, and 56358 won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 755, 238, 522 and 419 won NIS 100.

Tickets ending in 33,85,39 and 40 won NIS30. Tickets ending in 98 and 39 won NIS20. Tickets ending in 1 and 7 won NIS 10.

PM cautions British on Iran, Iraq

Says Oslo Accords won't resolve Jerusalem, refugee issues

By JAY BUSHINSKY and news agencies

LONDON - The burgeoning international crisis over Iraq's treatment of the American arms inspectors is looming over Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's talks here today with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, as it did in his talks yesterday with his British counterpart Tony Blair.

Netanyahu has been discussing the possibility of a US-led military strike against Iraq in terms of the impact it could have on Israel.

Like Israel, Great Britain firmly supports US President Bill Clinton in the ongoing confrontation with Iraq's Saddam Hussein. Netanyahu said he hopes to meet with Clinton next month.

The political phase of Netanyahu's working visit to the UK began with a session with Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown. Subsequent meetings with Blair and Foreign Minister Robin Cook convinced Netanyahu that Great Britain will intensify the European Union's involvement in the peace process when it assumes the EU presidency on January 1. The Europeans will try to accelerate the bilateral as well as the multilateral negotiations, Netanyahu said.

In an address to MPs in Westminster, Netanyahu denied accusations that he wanted to delay the peace process. "On the contrary, I want to move it forward," he said. But Netanyahu told them he was unequivocally opposed to the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Former home secretary Michael Howard, a Conservative, pressed Netanyahu to explain how he intends to inject meaningful momentum into the peace process.

Netanyahu implied that progress depends on the Palestinians, not on him. "They have to fulfill their part," he said. "We are fulfilling ours."

But he cautioned that "two issues will not be resolved" under the Oslo formula:

• Refugees - There will be no asphyxiation of Israel due to a massive influx of displaced Palestinians, he told the parliamentarians.

• Jerusalem - "If I have to choose between peace and the unification of Jerusalem, I will choose Jerusalem," he said.

Netanyahu ruled out the idea of sharing authority in Jerusalem with the PA, saying, "Jerusalem is the red line."

Netanyahu also said that Russia was still passing ballistic missile technology to Iran, which was just a year away from acquiring

a long-range nuclear missile capability.

"If the supply of Russian technology is not stopped, then within a year Iran would become self-sufficient and would be able to create those missiles on its own," he said.

Russia has repeatedly denied charges that it is passing missile know-how to Tehran. But Netanyahu said the flow of Russian technology was continuing despite a direct appeal he had made to Yeltsin, backed up by Clinton.

If Russia cuts off the flow then the Iranian ballistic missile program would be set back by many years, he told the parliamentarians. The Russian technology was "absolutely crucial" for Iran's capabilities, he said.

"I am also glad to see Tony Blair spoke to Yeltsin about it," he added. "It is very important that Russia receives appeals from all members of the international community because we are all at risk."

"We have to assume that they [the missiles] will be used... Iran armed with ballistic missiles could sway the whole politics of the Middle East and undermine existing security arrangements," Netanyahu said.

A further risk was that Islamic fundamentalist movements involved in terrorism would be emboldened to act if Iran acquired such missiles.

Netanyahu also cited a threat from what

he described as Iraq's ongoing attempts to develop nuclear weapons, but said international concern should focus equally on Iran, which was "developing these weapons with the same enthusiasm but without any limitations."

"Iran is developing nuclear weapons, chemical weapons, biological weapons," he said. "Iran is also developing ballistic missiles that can propel these missiles not only to Israel but in a second stage to Europe and in a third stage to the eastern seaboard of the United States."

Douglas Davis adds:

Netanyahu was greeted by about 50 Peace Now demonstrators when he arrived to address Jewish leaders in London last night. They carried placards supporting the peace process and calling on Netanyahu to resign. Inside the packed hall, Netanyahu told the audience he was seeking to "negotiate a historic settlement with the Palestinian within the coming year."

He also appealed to the Diaspora to support a compromise that will allow the "evolution of a solution" to religious rift within Judaism.

"All streams - Orthodox, Conservative and Reform - we're all Jews. It doesn't matter to me."

Netanyahu, Albright to meet today in London

By HILLEL KUTTLE

WASHINGTON - Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will meet today in London to discuss how to move ahead on the Israeli-Palestinian final-status talks.

The US believes that last week's ministerial summit here involving Albright, foreign minister David Levy and the Palestinian Authority's Mahmoud Abbas moved the peace process forward on several of the outstanding inter-stage issues and wants to build on that progress at the leadership level.

Albright will also meet tomorrow in Geneva with PA Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Albright "wants to have the opportunity to lay out her views and thoughts on how to put the process back on track now in light of [last week's] discussions and what we think is necessary to be able to move forward," US special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross said in a speech Wednesday, to a forum gathered by *Middle East Insight* magazine.

Ross said that the meeting will deal primarily with the "four-part" agenda Albright laid out following her meeting with Levy and Abbas at the UN in late September.



English song contest

Shown at last night's second annual AACI English song contest (from left) are banjo player Bruce Brill, who came in fifth, and singers Olivia Werby, Rachel Jascow, and Margalit Jakob. Newcomer Drew Holle and Baruch Friedland won a runaway victory for their Beatles-style song 'Too Many Nights.' Second place went to last year's second-place winner, Ann Limor, for her quiet ballad 'The Gift.' Yisrael Lutnick took third with his 'Can We Ever Have Music,' while fourth went to first-time competitor Batya Walker for 'Dreams.' Holle a new immigrant from Australia teamed up with Israeli lyricist Friedland in the winning effort. (Text: Helen Mayer; Photos: Israel: Sam)

Arafat plans to declare statehood in 1999

By Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

The Palestinian Authority will declare statehood in 1999 - if it can be unilaterally - at the end of the five-year interim period of autonomy, PA Chairman Yasser Arafat declared yesterday.

"I want to tell them that we will be able to implement what we promised our people," Arafat told reporters in Gaza after a meeting with Canadian Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy.

"The interim agreement is five years. Three years of it has passed, and we are waiting for the next two years to declare [statehood]," Arafat said. "At the end of the five years, our target will be to establish our independent state."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's communications adviser, David Bar-Ilan, said a unilateral declaration of statehood would violate earlier agreements "because it prejudices negotiations on the final status."

In the final status agreement, to be reached by May 1999, Israel and the Palestinians must agree on the nature of the emerging Palestinian entity. It is widely believed the agreement will include provisions for Palestinian statehood in parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Arafat yesterday accused Netanyahu of dragging his feet in the negotiations.

"The Israeli government is trying to waste time," Arafat said.

In a meeting with a delegation from Gush Shalom, Arafat also blamed Israel for rumors that he was in bad health.

"The government of Israel is spreading baseless rumors about my health condition," Arafat said. The Gush Shalom delegation, headed by Uri Avineri, reported that Arafat was very pessimistic about the peace process.

"In the days of Rabin, a brave man who was my partner in the peace process, every door in the world was opened to the state of Israel," Arafat told them. "Now

Bibi Netanyahu is slamming them closed, one after another. Netanyahu will bring disaster to us all, not just to the Israelis and the Palestinians, but also to [people of the] entire region."

In a related development, some 1,000 Palestinian schoolchildren marched in Hebron yesterday to mark Palestinian independence day. The main celebrations are scheduled for tomorrow, which has been observed as a national holiday in recent years.

Waving Palestinian flags and pictures of Arafat, the children chanted: "Long live the leader" and "Yes to self-determination."

It has been nine years since Arafat - then still in exile - declared Palestinian independence during the November 15, 1988, session of the Palestine National Council. The declaration was widely perceived at the time as a symbolic act - the Palestinians never delineated the boundaries of their state - and most countries have not recognized it.



Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat chats with Canadian Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy following their meeting at Arafat's office in Gaza City yesterday. (AP)

Rubinstein and Reno discuss teen murder suspect

By HILLEL KUTTLE

WASHINGTON - Attorney General Elyakim Rubinstein told his American counterpart Janet Reno yesterday that his decision to allow the extradition of S., the Maryland teenager wanted for murder, was made "despite the pressure and not because of the pressure" from the US.

Reno said she appreciated Rubinstein's cooperation on the case of the 17-year-old. She told Rubinstein that while she is "very sensitive" to Israeli law, she places great importance on the accused's being tried in the US.

In the meeting, according to an Israeli Embassy official, Rubinstein reviewed his legal thinking on the case and said that all efforts will be made to implement the bilateral extradition treaty.

He also explained the Justice Ministry's work, precluding the S. case, to try to change the law to allow for an Israeli citizen to be tried abroad for a crime committed there, provided he serve his sentence in Israel.

The other item on Rubinstein's agenda was the case of convicted spy Jonathan Pollard. He requested that Reno commute his life sentence to the 12 years he has already served, or at least reduce it.

Rubinstein also invited Reno to visit Israel.

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Criminal complaints still pending against Raviv

Calls to prosecute intensify

By LIAT COLLINS

Yesterday's publication of the previously classified material on Avishai Raviv from the Shamgar Commission report on the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin led to increased calls for Raviv's prosecution.

The Knesset subcommittee on the secret services took the unusual step of issuing a statement declaring "its complete faith in the General Security Service, which carried out its work faithfully and is fully committed to a democratic regime, its rules and laws."

The statement said there is no basis for rumors that the GSS was either directly or indirectly involved in a conspiracy. "This falsehood seriously harms the GSS's ability to carry out its difficult fight against terror and subversion," the statement said.

The statement said there were serious defects in the way Raviv was handled, from which the GSS must be learned. It said it would monitor the GSS's work to ensure that agents did not cause harm to innocent individuals, bodies, or political groups.

Law Committee chairman Shaul Yahalom (National Religious Party) said Raviv should be tried and the GSS should apologize to the residents of Hebron blamed for the violent acts against Arabs he instigated and carried out. He said Raviv's handlers should also be tried and said a committee should be established to decide procedure relating to the operation of agents in protest groups.

Communications Minister Limor Livnat and Moledet's Rehavam Ze'evi made similar statements. Teomet whip Eliezer Zandberg said Raviv should stand trial for not preventing the assassination, but added: "It is important to remember that the discussions on Raviv are secondary, and we would be mistaken to suffice with this without looking deeper into the processes and bodies which brought about the murder."

Alex Lubotzky (Third Way) said the report does not lend support to conspiracy theories but revealed "a serious moral failing in the GSS." The Likud faction issued a statement saying Raviv's role in the provocations and incitement which preceded the assassination must be thoroughly investigated.

Opposition MKs however said the Right could not use Raviv to absolve itself. Ran Cohen (Meretz) said Raviv was a right-wing extremist before he was recruited by the GSS, but he said Raviv should be tried for his criminal activities.

was responsible for closing three, the statement added. "Two of the files were closed after an investigation, without any connection to his being an agent. A third file (relating to the 'initiation ceremonies' affair) is still pending and there is no foundation to reports that it was closed by former attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair." The reference is to the initiation ceremony held by the extremist Eyal organization allegedly founded by Raviv, footage of which was screened on Israel TV's Channel 1.

The appendix to the Shamgar Report lists a large number of illegal activities attributed to Raviv for which he was not charged - including physical violence, attacks on property, masquerading as a policeman and "searching" Arabs, as well as participating in the setting up of "Napat", a Hebrew acronym for "Zionist Fascist Youth" 1990.

The section of the appendix relating to ties between the GSS and the police was not made public. Yesterday's statement did not mention a file relating to charges that Raviv failed to inform his superiors of Yigal Amir's intention to assassinate Rabin. The ministry spokesman confirmed last night that the attorney-general is still to decide on the fate of a file "dealing with failure to prevent a crime."

Over the past few days, the Justice Ministry had studiously refused to reveal details of investigations into Raviv's activities, saying merely that an unspecified number of complaints "from before the assassination" were being looked into. Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein hopes to wind up the investigations shortly after his return from the US next week, the ministry spokesperson added.

But yesterday's statement was more forthcoming. It noted that, in one case, Raviv had been charged in the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court and found guilty for attacking Hadash MK Tamar Gozansky in 1991.

It said that "other files... had indeed been closed... by the police and the State Attorney's Office for legal reasons (lack of evidence or lack of interest to the public) without any connection to (and sometimes without any awareness of) the fact that he was an agent."

It was therefore only in a minority of cases that it was decided to close a file against Raviv because of his GSS ties, "out of fear that bringing him to court would expose him as an agent and prevent the possibility of getting vital information from him which could thwart possible harm to human life."

Of 15 police files opened against Raviv, the State Attorney's Office

GSS informer Avishai Raviv did not receive total immunity from prosecution and a number of complaints about possible criminal activities on his part are still being investigated, the State Attorney's Office announced last evening.

However, the authorities were not aware of many of Raviv's alleged activities, because no complaints were lodged against him, the statement added.

The statement came in response to allegations in the media, following the publication of two classified sections of the Shamgar Report on the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin relating to Raviv's activities. According to these allegations, Raviv was not brought to trial for his extremist activities because the GSS, for whom he was working, took care to close files against him.

In fact, the State Attorney's Office said yesterday, "to the best of our knowledge, no complaints were lodged about the majority of the acts carried out by Raviv and described in the classified appendix and neither the police nor the State Attorney's Office was aware of them and therefore no files were opened against him. The Shamgar Report notes that most of these activities were only brought to the attention of the GSS post factum."

Bar-Ilan: Labor government used Raviv to blame settlers

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Officials and ministers in the previous government were aware of Avishai Raviv's activities and kept quiet, blaming the settlers, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's policy adviser David Bar-Ilan charged yesterday.

He called the revelations about Raviv shocking, with extremely grave implications. He demanded an immediate investigation, charging it is inconceivable that an agent employed by the state was allowed to operate and cause untold damage to national security.

Settlement leaders yesterday also charged that General Security Service officials were fully aware of Raviv's provocative activities and did nothing to stop him. They said his activities led to the entire settler community being blacklisted by the former government, left-wing organizations, and large segments of the population.

Settler leaders said that while they are aware that there are informers living within their communities, a number of active agents continue to incite.

Kiryat Arba spokesman Tsvi Popovitch said he knows of some 10 agents who were active in the community from 1987 until the Rabin assassination. Since then, he said, the agents have lowered their profiles.

However, he charged that as a result of Raviv's activities the entire community's name has been blackened, and he demanded all those involved be brought to justice. He recalled the murder in Halhoul that Raviv, then heading the extreme right-wing group Eyal, took responsibility for. "Later it came to light that Arabs, not Jews, had killed Arabs."

Noam Arnon, spokesman for the Hebron Jewish community, said he is sure no informers are operating in Hebron because the community is small and close-knit, but said he could not rule out the possibility that

lead, Raviv replied: "Not everyone is at his level. Everyone has their role to play."

Raviv quickly joined a list that included Baruch Marzel, Noam Federman, and Itamar Ben-Gvir as someone who could be called on all matters pertaining to the extreme right wing. He would also occasionally initiate contact, usually from a pay phone at the Tel Aviv Central Bus Station. He created an impression of authenticity by seeming to always have one foot in the underground.

There were a couple of things about Raviv that, only afterwards, did not seem to fit. How was it that this student in his mid-twenties had two apartments, one in Ma'aleh Adumim, and one in Kiryat Arba? Nor did he seem to fit the stereotypical mold of a Jewish history and philosophy student at Bar-Ilan University.

Also, if he was involved in as many illicit activities as he claimed - from organizing illegal demonstrations to "patrolling" streets in Hebron and harassing Arabs - why was he never in jail?

In dealing with the right-wing organizations, reporters come to learn quickly that, in general, the doors don't talk, and the talkers don't do. Which is why Baruch Goldstein and Yigal Amir were unknown quantities - they did not seek the limelight - while people like Baruch Marzel and Noam Federman, publicity hounds, seem to pose no real security risk.

Raviv appears to have been the exception. He is a man whose talk may have done quite a lot.



Avishai Raviv (left), at a demonstration several years ago.

(Ilan Ossendyver/Israel Sun)

Reflections on a 'reliable' source

For reporters covering the extreme right wing following the 1994 Machpela Cave massacre by Baruch Goldstein in Hebron, Avishai Raviv was a gold mine.

Raviv's role as a GSS informant was documented in the classified portion of the Shamgar Report released yesterday.

Prior to Goldstein, the extreme right-wing organizations - whose spokesmen were in constant contact with reporters - provided a dilemma. Do you report their statements and claimed illegal acts, thereby giving these groups the publicity that sustains them, or do you ignore them? Prior to Goldstein, the tendency was to ignore them; to dismiss them as publicity-seeking extremists who "talked the talk, but did not walk the walk."

Goldstein changed that perception. No longer were the threats from "wild-eyed extremists" in groups like Kach and Kahane Ha'i dismissed as bravado. Goldstein proved there were people who would translate these extreme words and slogans into heinous acts.

From that time on, all claims and threats and statements by the extreme Right were taken more seriously. This is when Avishai Raviv walked in. Although Raviv had made headlines a few years earlier with his verbal assault on the Druse head of Tel Aviv University's students association, and a physical assault on Hadash MK Tamar Gozansky during a Kach demonstration, he only became a media fixture around the time of the Goldstein massacre.

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

By HERB KEINON

Raviv, unlike many rank-and-file activists (as opposed to the familiar spokesmen) on the extreme Right at that time, was willing - even eager - to talk.

About a year before the massacre, Raviv formed Eyal, and one of its first actions was to circulate a leaflet calling on the youth not to serve in the IDF.

"The government of Israel has lost its moral authority in our eyes and we do not see ourselves as obligated to it in any way," the leaflet said. The leaflet called upon people not to serve in the IDF because "it has become political and serves the narrow interests of Rabin's traitorous government."

Raviv first came to the attention of some reporters at a press conference Kach held days after the Goldstein massacre. He stood in the shadows of Kach's Jerusalem office and was talkative. Beeper numbers were exchanged, and from then on Raviv was a good source of information on the doings and thinking of the extreme Right.

His information was reliable, and he could be counted on for the extreme quote. For instance, at the first anniversary of the Goldstein massacre, Raviv, present at Goldstein's grave in Kiryat Arba, said: "I came here to identify with the man. I am not sorry that Arabs died. I think many more should die."

When asked if he thought others should follow Goldstein's

Yuval Rabin receives death threat

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Yuval Rabin, the son of Yitzhak Rabin, received a threat to his life on Wednesday morning, as he was on his way to a memorial ceremony in Jerusalem marking the second anniversary of his father's assassination.

Dor Shalom spokesman Oren Yehi-Shalom said this was one of a growing number of threats and attacks on the peace movement's activists from extremist right-wing organizations. Yuval Rabin is one of the heads of the group.

At 9:40 a.m. a male voice with a heavy Russian accent left this message on Rabin's cell phone: "If you continue in your father's path, you will follow in his footsteps."

The threat came less than two weeks after a Dor Shalom office in Jerusalem that doubles as a play center for needy children was burned down.

Rabin, who filed a complaint with the police, refused to comment on the threat and his fellow activists in Dor Shalom said he remained unfazed.



Yuval Rabin (Moshe Shai)

But Yehi-Shalom said "frankly I'm a little concerned. Anyone could walk into our office. I hope we don't reach a stage in which we're afraid to work here."

He said Dor Shalom had its eye on a number of radical groups and, together with the police, which has set up a special investigation team, traced the threats to a Jerusalem-based group of extreme right wing immigrants from Russia.

"They know we're following

their steps and we assume they're after us," Yehi-Shalom said. "We urge the security forces to take note that there are people who still advocate violence and may act in violent ways."

Another group the police have their eye on focuses on slandering the late Yitzhak Rabin, whom they charge with murdering the victims of the bombing of the *Alulena* in 1948.

A fax recently received at Dor Shalom's office listed the names of those who died on the *Alulena*, and added: "Rabin murdered them in cold blood, voluntarily, and then strode on their blood to power. The people of Israel forgot, but God hasn't forgotten and will retaliate, measure for measure. That is God's way."

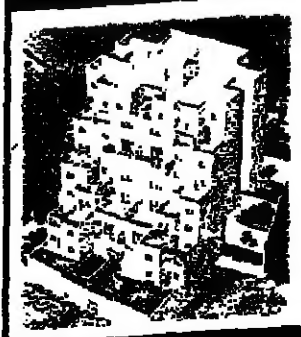
Yehi-Shalom said "I think I know

who is behind that threat. It shows our movement is very disturbing to certain people, although we emphasize our objection to any provocation. Yuval Rabin called only last Friday, on Army Radio, for tolerance and denounced ads which had been published against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu."

Yehi-Shalom reported that a Jerusalem hair dresser named Haim, who hung up a pro-Rabin poster in his shop on the anniversary of the murder, has been attacked and threatened several times in the last two days.

Asked to comment on this week's death threat received by Moledet MK Benny Elon, Yehi-Shalom said: "We are deeply shocked. We know we cannot exclude the possibility of a 'wild weed' on the Left, too."

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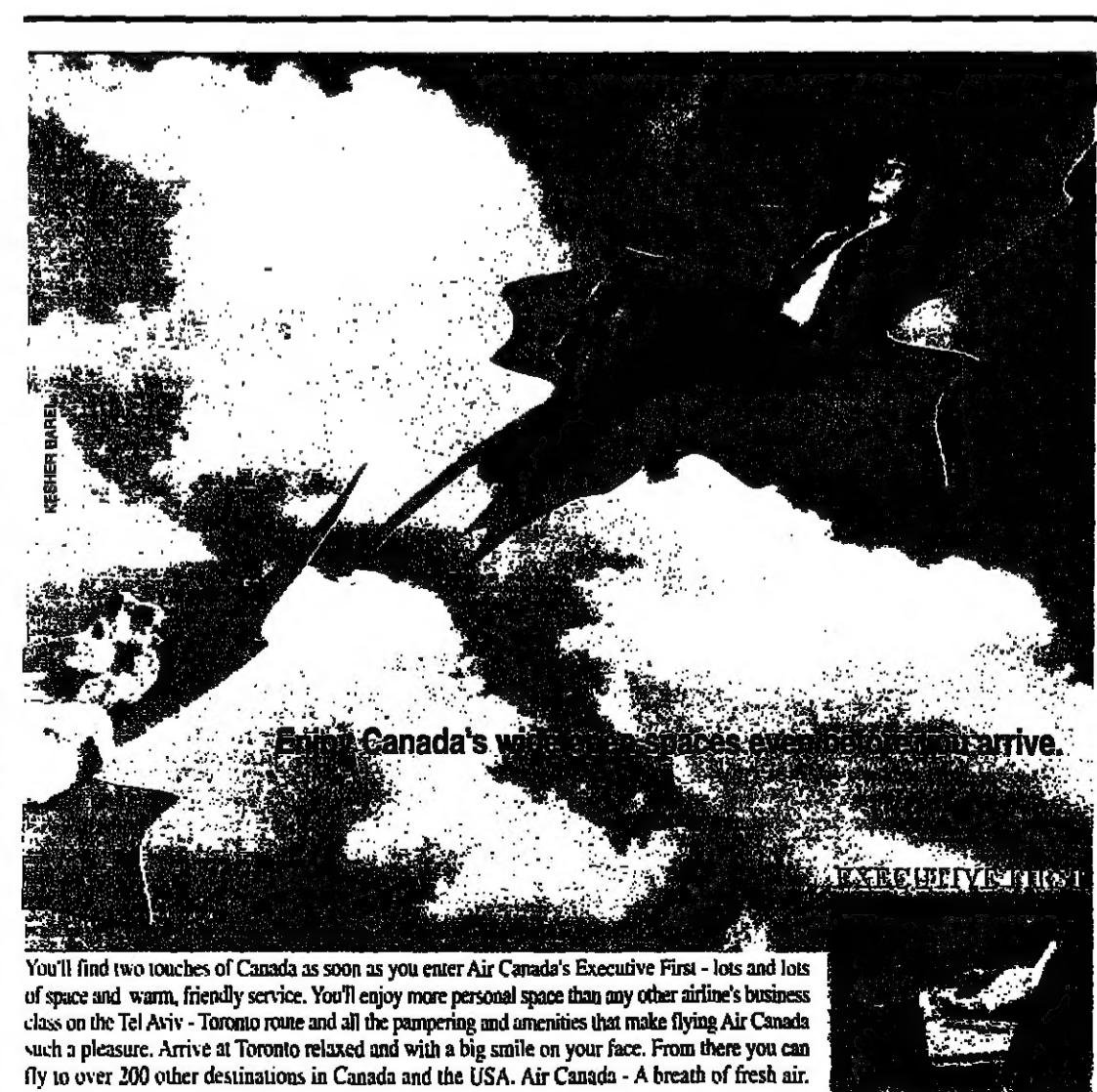
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AIR CANADA

Barak, Levy deny conferring to bring down government

By SARAH HONIG

Foreign Minister David Levy and Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak both denied that their meeting yesterday afternoon was part of any scheme to bring down the government or to discuss a possible deal between Labor and Geshet.

Barak also declared a national unity government "unlikely, unless the government totally changes its course."

Meanwhile a source close to Netanyahu emphasized that "at the prime minister's upcoming meeting with the leader of the opposition, the only topic will be reconciliation and not political coalition moves."

The Levy-Barak meeting, soon after the close of the turbulent Likud convention, generated intense speculation. However, the meeting had been planned several weeks ago and had been put off twice.

The two conferred at Levy's Tel Aviv bureau. Both participants insisted that the purpose of the meeting was for Levy to brief his predecessor.

"I merely brought Barak up to date on matters which I thought he should know, given his status and role in our public life," Levy said. "Nothing ever came up about cooperating to bring down [Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu. This is the irrational speculation of madmen. The issue does not exist," Levy protested.

"Likewise there was no issue of any merger between Geshet and Labor or of Labor reserving seats on its Knesset list for Geshet. The notion of a national unity government also never came up. The meeting was not anything unusual and should be regarded as a perfectly normal occurrence. All the talk surrounding this get-together makes as much sense as the babblings of a stumbling drunk."

Barak echoed Levy, maintaining that "politics never came up in our conversation. Neither did we address ourselves to the question of any cooperation between our parties. We did exchange views on matters of state."

As to the much-touted national unity issue, Barak noted that he "has received no invitation. When one comes, I'll respond. I agree



Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak and Foreign Minister David Levy shake hands before their meeting yesterday.

(Israel Sim)

with the attempt to lower tensions and promote national reconciliation but national unity is not on the cards now.

"We have a problem with the Netanyahu government. It is not leading us to peace and security but to paralysis. So long as this government does not fundamentally overhaul its guidelines, I don't see a national unity government as likely."

Later, at a meeting of the Labor Party political bureau, Barak delivered the same message but couched it in different terms, saying: "If the government changes its policies 180 degrees and if it then invites us into a national unity government, we would have a tough time saying no."

All this did not prevent furious disagreements inside Labor. MK Yossi Beilin warned that "Labor would go into such a government divided and torn."

MK Haggai Merom warned Barak that "the only mandate you

have is to talk about reconciliation but not of coalitions."

MK Shlomo Ben-Ami said "Labor must be a clear alternative and not a fifth wheel on a wagon careening out of control into the abyss."

Levy's faction was not of one mind either. MK Yehuda Lankri, a one-time Mapam member, was enthusiastic about the prospect of aligning his party with Labor.

"We had tried partnership with the Likud for a year-and-a-half and we had not been able to give expression to Geshet's unique platform. If I had to choose, I would prefer the Labor option," he said.

But MK Michael Kleiner stressed that "Geshet is part of the Likud bloc and all its MKs were elected on the Likud list. It cannot break away willy-nilly and I know for a fact that Levy will not take part in any scheme to topple Netanyahu."

Shas leader Aryeh Deri reported

yesterday that he had met with Netanyahu late Wednesday night, hours before the prime minister went abroad.

"The Netanyahu government will survive longer than the pundits assume, to no small extent because it's a coalition that no one has any alternative for. There are no other viable choices and the rest is talk," Deri said.

But contrary to what is said in Netanyahu's office, Deri's impression is that when "Netanyahu meets Barak, after the prime minister returns, he will make a national unity offer. If Barak will not accept, he will have made a dreadful error from his point of view, because once and offer is made and rejected, Netanyahu will survive quite securely in office till the year 2000."

He agreed that "much of the national unity talk is used as a whip to keep unruly Likud ministers and MKs in line on the eve of the budget vote. If they do not toe

the line, they are warned of alternatives which will cost them their portfolios."

Deri, concluded, however, that "Netanyahu made mistakes in his dealings with his ministers at the Likud convention and did not thereby strengthen himself, but he will survive."

In the Likud there was an effort yesterday to put the lid on talk of an organized drive in the party to bring down Netanyahu by recruiting MKs to join a Labor no-confidence motion. If 80 MKs vote against Netanyahu, it forces a new election for prime minister but not for the Knesset.

"This is stupid talk," asserted Science Minister Michael Elitzur, mentioned as one of the ring-leaders of the anti-Netanyahu plot. "It's crazy. What we are doing in the Likud now is attempting to examine what happened at the convention and to draw conclusions from it, but certainly not to bring down our own government."

FM won't attend Doha conference

By Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

Foreign Minister David Levy will not attend the Middle East and North Africa economic conference in Qatar that opens Sunday, the Foreign Ministry announced yesterday. The ministry said the Israeli delegation would be headed by Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky.

A ministry statement said Levy informed his Qatari counterpart, Sheikh Khamad al-Tamir, who had invited him to Doha, and the American government of his decision, citing the "economic nature" of the conference.

"In his letter, the foreign minister explained to Foreign Minister Sheikh al-Tamir, that due to the explicit economic nature of the conference, it would be preferable that a senior economic minister should head the Israeli delegation."

The foreign minister extolled Qatar's determination to hold the conference on time. He ended his letter by emphasizing his intention to continue to work to advance the peace process in the entire region.

"We waited to see what the Arab states were going to do, who's going," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. "And because hardly any foreign ministers are taking part, underscoring the meeting's economic character, he [Levy] thought, in coordination with the government, that the delegation should be led by an economic minister."

The Israeli delegation will include Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel and senior officials from the Foreign and other ministries, as well as some 30 businessmen.

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright had pressed Israel to send Levy. She will be spending a few hours at the three-day meeting.

Egypt and Saudi Arabia as well as Bahrain, Morocco and the United Arab Emirates are boycotting the meeting. Jordan, Kuwait, Yemen, Tunisia and Oman have confirmed their attendance.

The head of the Arab League, citing lack of progress towards Middle East peace, will stay away from the conference, a League spokesman said.

"Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdel-Meguid sent his apologies to Qatar's Sheikh Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani on Wednesday, saying he could not attend because of the lack of tangi-

ble progress in the Middle East peace process," the spokesman said.

"He [Abdel-Meguid] said this was a result of the practices of the current Israeli government, which is violating previous agreements and accords," he added.

Syrian newspapers yesterday applauded Arab states' boycott of the conference, saying their action showed that Arabs could not be pushed around.

"The almost complete boycott of the Doha economic conference because of Israel's participation confirms anew that countries of the region cannot be pushed to [do] something that is against their Arab and national interests," *al-Baath*, the ruling party newspaper, said.

"Their [Arabs] powers of resisting pressures and ability to strengthen themselves and defend their national strategic causes are far bigger than those who want to plan the future of the region can imagine," it added.

"There is a deep understanding that this conference is against the interests of the people in the region and does not serve the progress of the peace process," *al-Baath* said.

"This conference does a favor for the Israeli aggressor and gives him a reward for his aggression before peace is achieved," it added. "Where is the Arab interest in offering the chance to Netanyahu to grasp the fruits of peace before peace is achieved?"

The English-language official daily *Syria Times* said the Arab boycott was a successful test of Arab ability to confront Israeli policies with a united stand.

"Arabs must stop all dealings with Israel and strengthen cooperation among their countries on one hand and toughen measures to keep Israel isolated," *Syria Times* said.

"The massive boycott of the Doha conference is the first successful test," it said.

The official daily *Tishreen* condemned the conference, saying it would be a reward for Israel for its policy of expanding settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"The Arab boycott has shown that it is impossible to reward Israel for its aggressive and expansionist policy. The conference, as it was planned, aims at serving Israel, breaking Arab solidarity and pushing the Netanyahu government more and more into its breakthroughs on the Arab stage," *Tishreen* said.

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(Ruthie)

EU offers new ideas on Syria talks

DAMASCUS (Reuters) — Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jacques Poos, head of a European Union mission to the Middle East, met with Syrian President Hafez Assad yesterday to present "new ideas" aimed at reviving the Syrian-Israeli peace talks.

"We have new ideas which will offer to our friends and partners in Syria and we hope to have good results," Poos told reporters before his talks with Assad. He did not give details.

Syrian presidential spokesman Joubran Kourieh said Foreign Minister Farouk Shara and EU special envoy to the Middle East Miguel Moratinos were present at the meeting at the presidential palace.

Poos had talks earlier in the day with Shara, during which he stressed that peace could not be achieved between Syria and Israel without Israel's withdrawal

from the Golan Heights, one Syrian official said.

"Poos expressed the European Union's support to the Middle East peace process, the land-for-peace principle, and the implementation of UN resolutions regarding the crisis," he said.

Officials accompanying Poos, who earlier had talks in Egypt, Jordan, Israel, and Gaza, said the EU wants to play a greater political and economic role in the peace process.

"Our role complements and does not contradict the role of the United States, the co-sponsor of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations," an EU official said.

Officials said that Poos's talks in Damascus would also cover issues related to Syrian-EU cooperation in various fields, especially the economic sector.

Poos is due to visit Lebanon today.

WTC bomb attack prosecutors vow to seize remaining terrorist

By DONNA DE LA CRUZ

NEW YORK (AP) — Only one suspect remains at large in the World Trade Center bombing, and prosecutors vowed to seize the plot's mastermind with a vow to catch the last man.

Ramzi Yousef, 29, and an accomplice, Eyad Ismoil, 26, were convicted Wednesday of conspiracy and other charges in the February 26, 1993, bombing.

The blast killed six people, injured more than 1,000 and did more than a half billion dollars in damage to the twin towers.

Four Islamic extremists already have been sentenced to 240 years in prison in the bombing.

The jury heard more than 100 witnesses and viewed hundreds of exhibits over three months. Jurors deliberated for three days before voting to convict the men,

who could get up to life in prison. Yousef is to be sentenced January 8; Ismoil on February 12. Their lawyers said they would appeal.

It was the fifth time in four years that prosecutors have prevailed at terrorism trials. But US Attorney Mary Jo White said it was too early to relax while one suspect is still at large: Abdul Rahman Yasin, who was born in Indiana and moved to Iraq in the 1960s.

"This case investigation will never be over until we track down anyone associated with this type of terrorism," she said.

This was the second terrorism conviction for Yousef. He represented himself last year in a conspiracy trial for killing a Japanese man with a plane bomb in December 1994, and for plotting to kill 4,000 Americans in two days by bombing a dozen airlin-

ers over the Far East. He has not yet been sentenced.

"We learned from all of these experiences. Every time we do this, it galvanizes us in law enforcement," FBI Assistant Director James Kallstrom said after the verdict.

Assistant US Attorney Lev Dassin told jurors in his closing arguments that Yousef and Ismoil "bombed the World Trade Center because of their own prejudice and their own hatred for Israel, for the United States and for the people of the United States."

"Yousef was a terrorist," Dassin said. "He came here to kill and to spread fear among the people of the United States."

Prosecutors said Yousef hoped to frighten the US out of support for Israel by blowing up the 110-story towers and killing hundreds of thousands of people. They said he came to the US in 1992 solely

to bomb an American landmark, joining his co-conspirators in Jersey City, New Jersey, where they ordered chemicals and rented a storage shed to accept deliveries and an apartment to serve as a bomb factory.

Ismoil was accused of driving the bomb-laden truck into the trade center's garage. He claimed he didn't know a bomb was in the van and was told it was a shipment of cleaning products.

Defense lawyers accused the FBI of lying, saying agents would do whatever they could to avenge one of the worst terrorist attacks in the nation's history.

Yousef and Ismoil fled the country the night of the bombing. Yousef was caught in Pakistan in 1995, the same year Ismoil was captured in Jordan.

Yousef bragged about the attack even as federal agents returned him in handcuffs and leg irons to

the US, eating a diagram he had drawn of the towers when he feared agents would take it, authorities said.

An FBI agent said Yousef told him he would have made the bomb bigger if he had more money. He also expressed disappointment that only six people died, a witness testified.

Three of the four men convicted in 1994 of bombing the trade center were followers of Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman, a blind Egyptian cleric who prosecutors said preached a fiery brand of Islam.

In 1995, Abdel-Rahman and nine others were convicted of conspiracy in a plot to blow up the United Nations, FBI headquarters and two tunnels and a bridge linking Manhattan to New Jersey. The sheik was sentenced to life in prison while the others received long sentences.

TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY



deeply mourns the passing of

ANNIE ADAMS

Member of the Board of Governors of the University
Doctor Philosophiae Honoris Causa
Co-founder of the Adams Super-Center
for Brain Studies
and the Marcel and Annie Adams Institute for
Business Management Information Systems
A great friend of the University and Israel

The University extends condolences to her
husband, Marcel, and the entire family.

Benno Gitter
Chairman of the
Board of Governors

Prof. Yoram Dinstein
President

Witness to fatal crash: Diana's car was at 'supersonic' speed

LONDON (AP) — The motorcyclist who says he was the first person at the scene of the crash that killed Princess Diana said in an interview published yesterday that the car had been going exceptionally fast. But he denied the driver had challenged paparazzi to catch it.

The London newspaper *The Guardian* quoted Stephane Darmon, who was a holiday-relief motorcyclist courier for Gamma picture agency at the time, as saying the car's speed had been "almost supersonic."

The Mercedes crashed in a Paris underpass early on August 31 while being pursued by photographers. French tests showed that Henri Paul, the driver, was drunk and had taken prescription drugs. Investigators have said the car was speeding.

Darmon, 32, denied reports that Paul issued a catch-me-if-you-can challenge. "The car had darkened windows and they were all closed but I could see Diana inside. She was still wearing dark glasses," he was quoted as saying.

But he told the paper Paul had fooled with photographers as they waited at the Ritz Hotel for Diana and Fayed to emerge.

"Henri Paul began playing games with us, saying they would be out in 10 minutes, then five. He staged two false departures, in which Mercedes cars drove round Place Vendôme and came back again," he told the paper.

It quoted him as saying he and Gamma photographer Romuald Rat sped off after the Mercedes on the courier's motorcycle when the real departure occurred.

"We drew even with the Mercedes at a traffic light," Darmon was quoted as saying. "There were cars in front of the Mercedes, so it could not just speed off when the lights turned to green. But it zigzagged quite cleverly through the traffic and was ahead of us when it turned into the slip road... Once it had turned into the dual carriageway, it just took off — almost super-

sonic."

A few minutes later, Darmon and Rat in pursuit reached the underpass. They had seen the Mercedes's lights disappear into it but had not heard the crash, Darmon was quoted as saying.

"We were the first to get there — the investigating magistrate says we arrived 30 seconds after the crash. Everything I remember from this moment, even the sounds, is in slow motion, like in a film. The car was almost facing us, with its bonnet in the wall. There was glass everywhere."

"I drove up to it and Romuald got off. The others were arriving. I drove on a little further, to the exit of the tunnel."

The photographers lined up on the right-hand side of the wreck. All the bodies were in the car. The underpass was white with flashlights. The cameras were going like machine guns. It was so dazzling that, for a while from my vantage point at the exit of the tunnel, I could not see the Mercedes.

"There were 10 or 15 photographers and maybe some onlookers. Romuald opened the rear right-hand door. Serge Amal from Stills, [another agency] made a sign to indicate he was calling the emergency services. Some police officers arrived."

Darmon said he is currently jobless. "The photographers have been given their press cards and are working again. I am unemployed," having been dropped by Gamma.

"I was only a temporary employee. Their lawyer still represents me but, really, he represents the agency. I cannot afford my own lawyer."

Darmon, Rat and a group of other photographers were placed under investigation after the crash to determine what role they may have played in the accident and whether they violated France's "Good Samaritan" law. Lawyers acting for them have expressed confidence they will be cleared of any responsibility.

Chinese leaders to review markets' crisis

By ANDREW BROWNE

BEIJING (Reuters) — Top Chinese leaders will gather in Beijing next week to discuss cleaning up the country's troubled financial system amid a markets crisis gripping Asia, officials and state bankers said yesterday.

But Premier Li Peng, speaking in Japan, insisted the economy was in good shape and that China had escaped the turmoil rocking its neighbors.

Backing up his optimistic assessment, customs data showed China's trade surplus in the first ten months of this year surged to \$35.5 billion from \$11.9 billion a year earlier.

The surplus is swelling China's foreign exchange reserves and underpinning its currency.

A spokesman for the People's Bank of China, the central bank, said the leadership concave in Beijing would last for three days starting next Monday. It will be organized by the State Council, or cabinet, reflecting its importance.

Chinese bankers said the gathering would consider ways to reduce risk in China's financial system and avoid the mistakes of Asian economies now paying the price for reckless lending, lax supervision and speculative currency inflows.

China's Big Four commercial banks are plagued by bad debt

piled up by ailing state companies, and other non-bank financial institutions are overextended and in trouble.

But Li boasted that China stood apart from the Asian financial crisis.

"The current fiscal woes that originated in Southeast Asia have affected many regions of the world, but not China," he told business leaders in Tokyo. "The exchange rate of the Renminbi Yuan and the US dollar has been stable at 8.3 to one."

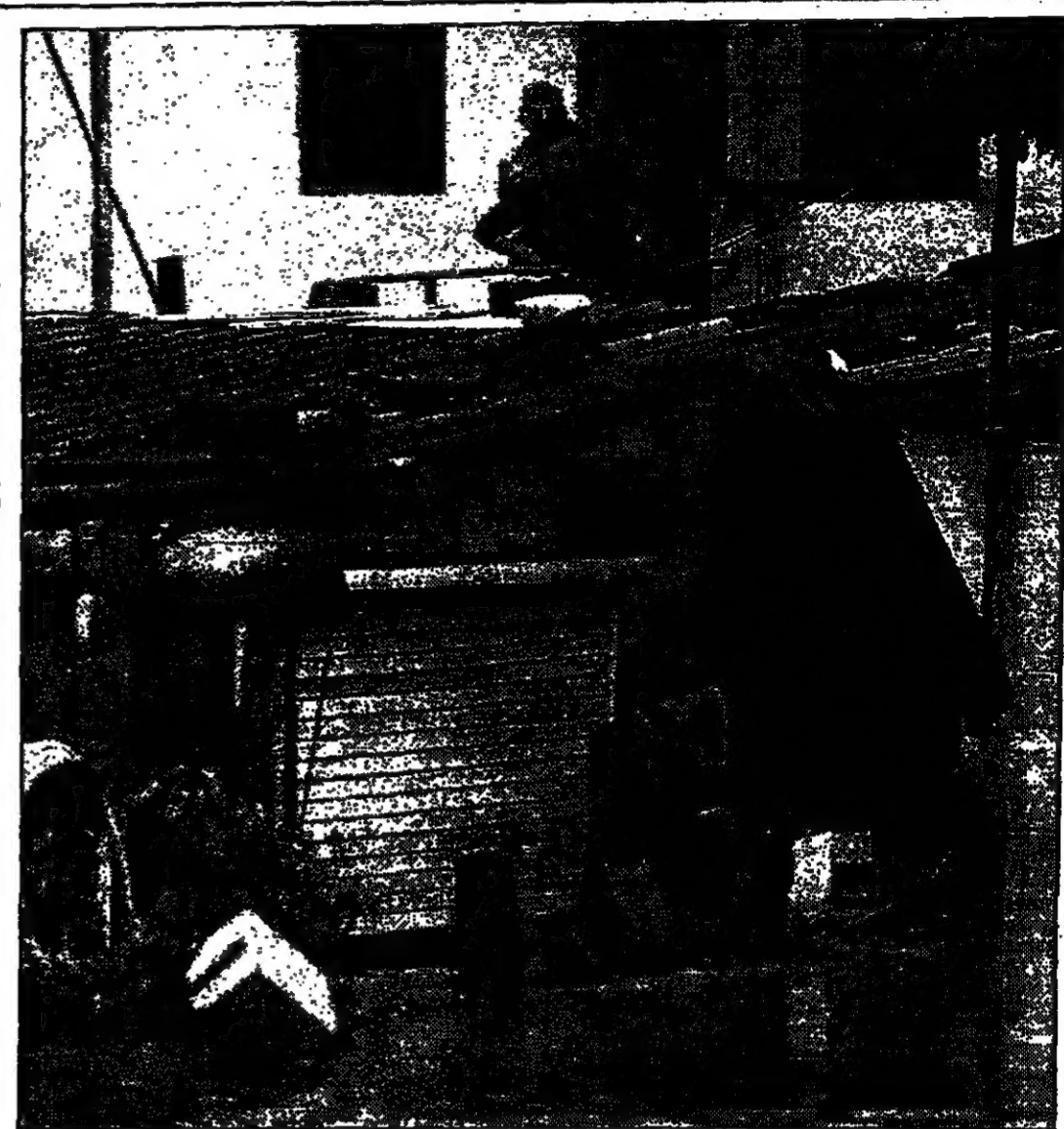
Chinese financial analysts said Asia's crisis had further convinced China that a go-slow approach to currency liberalization was vital.

"China will move cautiously on allowing convertibility of the yuan on the capital account," said Hu Zhanguan, a senior economist with the State Council.

"It is not worried about the movement of capital in and out of the country by itself but it is concerned over potential disruption," he said in a reference to speculative trades.

China has freed up convertibility on the current account for trade purposes.

Hong Kong's *Sing Tao* daily reported that President Jiang Zemin, Premier Li Peng and economic star Zhu Rongji would head the Beijing meeting on financial reform. Provincial Communist Party secretaries had also been summoned.



WASHED UP

An unidentified couple look out over a flooded street beneath their house in Vigo yesterday. Heavy rainfalls are continuing to cause problems in various parts of Spain. (AP)

New ambassador to Moscow: Clinton likely to visit Russia after START treaty ratification

By MITCHELL LANDSBERG

MOSCOW (AP) — US President Bill Clinton will probably visit Russia sometime early next year, ideally after Russia's ratification of the START II treaty, the new American ambassador said yesterday.

In his first news conference in Moscow as US ambassador, James Collins stressed the need for the

United States and Russia to continue reducing their nuclear arms stockpiles and improve nuclear security.

Responding to wide-ranging questions, Collins also defended NATO expansion, spoke of the need for Russia to reduce corruption and crime, and said the United States is keeping a close watch on Russia's implementation of a new religion law.

Collins, a career diplomat who has served in the US Embassy here twice before, has been serving as ambassador since September. He previously was ambassador-at-large for the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union.

His debut as ambassador was a reserved, low-key affair, in which he generally bowed to careful recitations of US policy.

Censorship and symbolism in Iran

By SCHEHREZADE FARAHANZADI

TEHERAN (AP) — It's not easy making a movie when characters of the opposite sex can't touch, or even get too close to each other. Or when women must be shown covered from head to toe, even when sleeping in bed.

Iranian films, however, are winning awards at international festivals, even as filmmakers complain about the strict rules they have to work under in the Islamic republic. Tahmineh Milani, one director willing to speak out in public, points to a rule by censors that characters of the opposite sex may not touch.

"You see a scene where a woman faints and collapses and her husband calls the [female] neighbor to pick her up," she said mockingly. "This is very damaging to the film."

Milani recalled another scene in which a soldier comes home from battle but cannot hold his mother in his arms.

"Hugging doesn't mean sex," Milani said in a frustrated tone. "It's the most beautiful expression of love."

What's toughest on realistic films is the rule that women characters must follow the Islamic dress code at all times, she com-

plained. Still, recent Iranian movies have won international praise for their simple but frank appraisals of social issues in Iran's restrictive society. For example, *The Taste of Cherry*, which is about suicide, won this year's Golden Palm at the Cannes Film Festival.

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The *White Balloon*, which won the 1996 Cannes Film Festival and competed for Oscars, focused on a small girl sitting in a town square observing and meeting passersby. Milani received attention overseas for *Kakado*, the story of a young girl's growing pains, and *The Legend of the Sigh*, which is about five women from different social and economic backgrounds.

Those films generally have been popular in Iran, too. But getting them shown is no easy task. Milani, 37, said she struggled to get approval for all four movies she has made the past 10 years. A script for a fifth movie was approved a few months ago.

Getting an OK for a film means

innumerable trips to the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance, which censors movies.

Milani blames a miscarriage on the stress of dealing with the censors — and the hundreds of times she had to walk up and down the ministry's stairs — to get approval for her last movie, *Kakado*. It took four years. Among the censors' objections was that a young female character named Golnaz would not be wearing a head scarf. They also objected that an unsavory character was named Hassan, which they considered an insult to Imam Hassan, a Shi'ite Muslim saint.

Milani said the complaint about the name Hassan was dropped, and she argued — eventually successfully — that the girl was not yet old enough to have to wear a scarf under Islamic law.

Despite her frustrations and anger, Milani said she owes her success to the 1979 Islamic revolution that drove out the Western Shah and brought in an Islamic regime. She was 18 at the time and her parents had refused to let her study cinema because films were not considered respectable. After the revolution, when film was no longer seen as "decadent," they changed their minds.

With deep sorrow,
we announce the passing of our beloved

**CORNELIA (Kay)
LÖWENDORFF**

née de Haaff
widow of Norbert Löwendorff
11.5.13 - 13.11.97

The funeral took place on Thursday, November 13, 1997
(13 Heshvan 5758) at the Herzliya Cemetery.

M. Duitser

E.Y. Spier

Executors of the Will

Address for correspondence: Westende 24, 1017 ZP
Amsterdam, Holland

With deep sorrow I announce the passing away
on 13 November 1997 of my companion in life

KAY LÖWENDORF

She will be deeply missed

Reuven Shay

A memorial service and unveiling of the tombstone
of our beloved husband, father and grandfather

Dr. JOSHUA (Solly) STEINBERG

will take place on Tuesday, November 18, 1997 (18 Marheshvan)
at 3:30 p.m. at the Sarhadria Cemetery, Jerusalem.
A Study Evening in his memory will be held at the
Chel Aharon Synagogue, 28 Rehov Harlap, Kiryat Shmuel, Jerusalem
5:00 p.m. Ma'ariv

Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz, Chief Rabbi of Ra'anana
Prof. Avraham Grossman, for the congregation
Stanley Emerson, for the family
Study of Mishnayot

Relatives, friends, and all who cherish his memory are invited.
The Family

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FBI suspends Flight 800 inquiry

NEW YORK (AP) - The FBI has told families of the 230 victims of TWA Flight 800 that it found "absolutely no evidence" that a criminal act brought the plane down and is suspending its investigation, according to a letter obtained by The Associated Press.

"I must report to you ... that our investigation has found absolutely no evidence to cause us to believe that the TWA Flight 800 tragedy was the result of a criminal act," wrote James Kallstrom, the FBI assistant director who headed the criminal probe.

Kallstrom confirmed Wednesday night that the FBI had sent a letter to victims' families, but he gave no details "as it is a private matter between the FBI and the families at this point." The FBI plans a news conference next week to issue a comprehensive report on the criminal probe's findings, a law-enforcement source said.

Kallstrom wrote that the FBI will continue to be involved in the National Transportation Safety Board's investigation of the July 1996 crash of the Paris-bound plane.

"Every lead has been covered, all possible avenues of investigation exhaustively explored, and every resource of the United States government has been brought to bear in this investigation," Kallstrom said.

The NTSB is continuing to try to learn what caused vapors inside the empty fuel tank to explode, shattering the Paris-bound plane shortly after takeoff from New York's Kennedy Airport.

The FBI has said repeatedly it has found no evidence that the Boeing 747 was downed by a bomb or missile.

The FBI began its investigation minutes after the jumbo jet burst into a fireball, killing everyone on board and scattering wreckage across a 13-square-kilometer area

of the Atlantic Ocean, about 15 kilometers off Long Island, outside New York City.

Numerous eyewitnesses reported streaks of light in the sky just before the explosion, prompting a team of investigators to focus on the missile theory. The FBI flatly rejected allegations by conspiracy theorists that an errant navy missile was to blame.

"When it first happened, I thought bomb," said Joe Lychner of Houston, who lost his wife and two small daughters in the crash.

"But when I look at all the testing the FBI did and they found nothing, I am convinced this had to be mechanical," FBI agents interviewed more than 7,000 people, including everyone who touched or had access to the aircraft at Kennedy Airport and in Athens, Greece, where the flight originated.

The FBI and NTSB reconstructed the wreckage inside a hangar and then scruti-

nized the holes and punctures for any evidence of a crime.

Michel Breistroff of Paris, whose 25-year-old son was killed, said he received Kallstrom's letter on Wednesday.

Breistroff said he and other family members overseas now plan a campaign to have all 747s grounded. "This plane is obviously a dangerous plane," he said. "It took investigators all these months and all these millions of dollars to tell us that."

TWA spokesman Donn Walker in St. Louis said the airline did not know that the FBI had sent letters indicating it was ending its criminal probe. "They've been hunting for a while so it's really not a surprise," he said.

He added the company was frustrated that federal investigators have not been able to determine what caused the crash. "We just want answers. We just want to know what happened," he said.

Dealers sell drugs outside old KGB head office

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV

MOSCOW (AP) - Some of Russia's aggressive drug dealers have become so brazen they've been doing their business right across the street from the former KGB headquarters in central Moscow.

Recent newspaper articles have highlighted the problem of drug dealing on Lubyanka Square, next to the offices of the Federal Security Service, the main successor to the KGB.

Police responded, arresting a number of suspects there, said Vladimir Charykov, head of the drug-fighting department of the Moscow police.

"Some people arrested told us frankly they came there to deal drugs because they read a newspaper story," Charykov told a news conference on Wednesday.

Drug use has been soaring since the Soviet breakup six years ago, and cocaine and heroin are now increasingly common among Russian users, Charykov said.

"The latest trends have been very negative," he noted.

The number of drug-related crimes in Moscow has almost doubled in the first 10 months of the year compared to 1996, he said.

Drug dealers are turning away from opium and marijuana to cocaine, heroin, and synthetic drugs in a quest for higher profits, he said.

Russia has become an important drug market and transit route, targeted by smugglers from dozens of countries.

By official estimate, the number of Russian drug users now stands at about 2 million, up from 300,000 a decade ago.

Drug dealers have benefited from the country's economic turmoil, widespread official corruption and money laundering, and its long, porous borders.

The largest flow of drugs comes from Afghanistan. Opium is refined into heroin as it works its way through the ex-Soviet republics of Central Asia and on to Russia, Western Europe, and the United States.

"With fighting in Afghanistan raging for nearly 20 years and Tajikistan also beset by long-lasting armed conflict, it's not surprising that the region has become a major source of drugs," Charykov said.

In Russia, organized crime groups specializing in the drug trade have already divided the local market. Taking the lead in Moscow are traffickers from Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, and Nigeria.

Of the drug dealers arrested by police in the capital, most were foreign citizens, Charykov said.

When detained, suspects sometimes refuse to identify themselves. Police must then conduct lengthy searches, often contacting several embassies, simply to find out who the suspects are, said Alexei Nikulin, a top crime squad investigator.

Under Russian law, possession and trafficking of drugs is punishable by five to 12 years in prison, but few dealers receive long terms, police officials said.

A day after Americans slain in Pakistan Phone threats in Malaysia on four Americans' lives

By NELSON GRAVES

KUALA LUMPUR (Reuters) - A telephone caller yesterday threatened to kill four Americans in Malaysia, the US embassy said, as strains between the two nations deepened.

The embassy in Kuala Lumpur said in a notice to the American community that it had received two telephone calls yesterday morning threatening harm to US citizens in Malaysia.

"One of the callers specifically threatened to kill four Americans in Malaysia," the embassy said.

The statement said the embassy was unable to assess the credibility of the threats. An embassy spokesman said the US government is taking the threats seriously.

In Karachi on Wednesday, a gunman killed four American men and their Pakistani driver in a daylight ambush. Police said the killings could have been linked to the US

conviction of a Pakistani for murdering two CIA employees.

The threats against Americans in Malaysia coincided with increased strains between the two nations. Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's cabinet on Wednesday condemned a non-binding resolution in Congress which urges him to apologize for alleged remarks about Jews or resign.

Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said Mahathir's cabinet strongly objects to the resolution, introduced last month in the US House of Representatives.

The resolution, which has not been taken up by any congressional committee, calls on Mahathir "to apologize and acknowledge the destructive and divisive nature of his words, or as an alternative, resign as the prime minister of Malaysia."

Mahathir drew criticism from Jewish groups and the United States in October after he was

quoted as saying the government suspected Jewish groups had an agenda to block Moslems' progress. Mahathir later said he had been misinterpreted.

The cabinet's objection to the resolution was carried on the front pages of many Malaysian newspapers yesterday.

"The recent tragic event in Karachi... is an unpleasant reminder of the dangers faced by Americans abroad," the US embassy statement said.

"With the recent conviction of Mir Aimal Kasi, the ongoing trial of Ramzi Ahmed Yousef, the situation in Iraq, and today's local press articles on the congressional resolution, Americans in Malaysia are encouraged to maintain a high level of security awareness, and to report any suspicious or threatening behavior to the police," the statement said.

Kasi was convicted on Monday for the 1993 murder of two CIA

employees at the agency's Virginia headquarters.

On Wednesday, a US federal jury convicted Yousef of masterminding the 1993 World Trade Center bombing.

About 100 supporters of Mahathir from the youth wing of his National Front coalition protested peacefully outside the US embassy in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

The protest was against the draft congressional resolution and the US investigation into a gas deal in Iran that Malaysia's national oil company Petronas has signed.

Six protesters were allowed to enter the embassy and hand a note to political counselor Jeffrey Lumsied.

In Washington, Malaysian Ambassador Dahl Hashim met the resolution's author, Rep. Robert Wexler, a Florida Democrat, on Wednesday to assure him Mahathir isn't "anti-Jewish."



Police stand guard outside Virginia's Fairfax County Judicial Center yesterday as the jury arrives for the sentencing of Mir Aimal Kasi, convicted of killing two CIA employees. The judge ordered the jury sequestered after Americans were murdered in Pakistan. (AP)

Americans in Pakistan stay indoors

KARACHI (AP) - Americans living in Karachi stayed close to home yesterday amid fresh warnings from the US State Department just one day after four American oil company workers were gunned down on their way to work.

The American school was closed. US citizens were being advised to stay at home, and the State Department urged them to be wary of fresh retaliation, this time because of the US conviction on Wednesday of Ramzi Yousef.

Yousef, who was arrested in Pakistan in 1995, was convicted of conspiracy in the 1993 bombing

of the World Trade Center in New York. Prosecutors portrayed Ramzi as one of history's most sinister terrorists and the architect of the World Trade Center bombing.

The shooting Wednesday of the four Union Texas Petroleum workers came just two days after the conviction in the US of Mir Aimal Kasi for the 1993 killings of two CIA agents outside the headquarters in Virginia.

"The November 10 conviction of Mir Aimal Kasi and the conviction ... of Ramzi Yousef in the World Trade Center Bombing make Americans potential targets of retaliatory acts by their sym-

pathizers," said the State Department advisory.

A similar warning was issued the day before the slaying of the Union Texas Petroleum company employees.

While there has been no motive established for that killing, the only group to publicly take responsibility for it is a previously unheard of organization, known as the Aimal Secret Committee.

Meanwhile, teachers at the American school in Karachi were told that a decision would be made whether to evacuate the children from the city, said Fania Khan, a US national working at the school.

"We were told not to come to the

school today and to keep the children home," she said.

Sindh Chief Minister Liaqat Jatoi has tried to reassure the American community in Karachi, promising "total security" for the school. There are about 300 students at the school, many of them are not Americans.

Employees of the US Consulate have not been allowed to bring their families to Karachi since the 1995 shooting there of two consulate employees.

Wednesday's attack mirrored that brutal killing of 1995: the consulate workers were gunned down on a busy street as they made their way to work.

Well fix it, dear Henry!

Many years ago, the name of Henry Kissinger came up during an interview with a Cypriot politician. "Kissinger!" he hissed with great venom. "I'd like to drink his blood. He drained ours."

There's an old Norfolk (England) folk song, long since transplanted to American country. It runs: "There's a hole in the bucket, dear Eliza, dear Eliza," to which Eliza responds with increasing frustration as the song runs on: "Well, fix it, dear Henry! Dear Henry, fix it!"

Henry Kissinger's globe has been full of holes that needed fixing, but from the bottom of our own bucket - we see only one. Thus, after the 1974 war in Cyprus, Kissinger was the demon conspirator who allowed the CIA in Athens to plot with the dictator colonels to stage a coup in Cyprus which led to the Turkish invasion.

The Cypriots underscored their case by accusing him of destroying President Salvador Allende in Chile and bringing another hated general, Augusto Pinochet, to power.

In 1974, the same Mr. Fixit was making himself into a hero and a lifetime legend by negotiating the first ever disengagement treaty between Israel and Syria-Egypt. Of that, more later.

"The illegal we do immediately. The unconstitutional takes a bit longer," wrote Kissinger in *Law and Politics*, delighting both people with a sense of humor and conspiracy theorists who have none.

cross section of Internet usefulness, uselessness, infantility, and obsession. No, there were no offers among the 2,000 to 10,000 references for Kissinger blow-up dolls or nude pictures - but yes, he did star in a site for love lives of the famous.

We always knew there are a lot of wackos "out there." Now they all have web sites.

More interestingly, there was even a Henry Jewish joke (on a Jewish site, so it's *mishpacha*, not neo-Nazi.) A mother brings her child to his first day of Hebrew school. "What's his name?" asks the teacher.

"Henry Kissinger Goldberg," the mother replies.

"Isn't Henry Kissinger an odd name to give to a child, Mrs. Goldberg?"

"It's Ms. Goldberg. I thought that Henry Kissinger would be the perfect name to give to a bastard."

Now that's interesting, not because it's a good joke, but because of the background to it. This was the widespread belief current after the Yom Kippur War that Henry Kissinger knew about the Arab attack four days in advance, but refused to warn Israel. That was fuelled by the other urban legend - or conspiracy theory, take your pick - that Kissinger delayed the resupply airlift to pressure the government into accepting a cease-fire.

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

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Inter sewer

Such musings drove me to consult the modern Delphic Oracle (the Internet) in advance of Kissinger's visit to Israel this week, when he delivered the first Rabin Lecture for the new Rabin Center - the shortest item in a packed schedule.

At a chat in his hotel with a few of us columnists, he grumbled that the Rabin Center organizers had been horrified to find that he had a whole half hour free one morning and rushed to plug it (dear Henry).

This is from the man you can find in the modern quote books for saying: "There can't be a crisis next week. My schedule is already full."

The Kissinger visit provided a good opportunity to measure the man against the legend - and to carry out an updated check on the research value of the Internet, which we journalists now shamelessly plunder for fresh ideas and old scandals.

For those not yet familiar with this technological miracle, let me compare searching the Internet's World Wide Web to swimming through a sewer with your mouth open, hoping to catch the good bits. Instead of one's mouth, one can now use a sort of scoop called a search engine. That finds not the good bits (whoever saw a scoop with value judgment), but the big bits.

What Kissinger thought is of indifference to me. What we wanted to see was a cease-fire along pre-war lines and did not want a cease-fire in place in which Israel lost territory."

Now there's the ring of truth from a man who consistently expresses fears for Israel's territorial security and says there must be no return to the 1967 borders. The least we could do, Ms. Goldberg, is thank Henry for fixing that one.

Web wackos

The search for "Henry Kissinger" delivered a fine

UN food agency afraid supplies might run out

ROME (AP) - Nations have drastically reduced their contributions of food aid, agricultural production has slowed, and food stocks are dwindling, a UN agency said Wednesday.

With 29 countries in need of food aid - four more than last year - the Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organization said it was worried food supplies would not be enough to go around.

And with the El Nino phenomenon causing havoc to weather patterns around the world, the 1998 harvest could prove even worse than this year's, the agency said.

"Food stocks are insufficient to face bad impacts [of El Nino] if they take place," said Jacques Vercueil, director of FAO's Agriculture and Economic Development Division.

Meteorologists call this year's El Nino phenomenon - a warm current in the Pacific Ocean that brings extreme weather changes - the worst in 100 years. An increase in droughts, floods, and forest fires has been reported.

FAO put the growth of this year's world agriculture production at 1.1 percent - the lowest in two decades.

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Five countries each in Asia and Eastern Europe, plus one in Latin America are also in need of aid.

The figures were released by FAO in its annual report.

FAO urged its 175 member nations to increase their food aid contributions, which dropped by 37% this year to reach the lowest level ever.

"Solidarity for agriculture is not receiving the priority it necessitates," Vercueil said.

If food stocks drop too much then prices will start climbing and the needy will have even less access to food, FAO said.

ROME (AP) - Nations have drastically reduced their contributions of food aid, agricultural production has slowed, and food stocks are dwindling, a UN agency said Wednesday.

With 29 countries in need of food aid - four more than last year - the Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organization said it was worried food supplies would not be enough to go around.

And with the El Nino phenomenon causing havoc to weather patterns around the world, the 1998 harvest could prove even worse than this year's, the agency said.

"Food stocks are insufficient to face bad impacts [of El Nino] if they take place," said Jacques Vercueil, director of FAO's Agriculture and Economic Development Division.

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Yad Sarah - Jerusalem

In the Golden Age Supplement (14.11.97) a mistake appeared in the Telephone and Fax numbers.

The correct numbers are:

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Reconciliation is good politics

The special Knesset session in memory of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin was a spectacle, but — thankfulness — not of the sort to which the public has grown accustomed. The session, attended by the Supreme Court justices, military leadership, and the diplomatic community, was formal and dignified. There were no catcalls, no signs, no walkouts — just speaking and listening. Now that we know the Knesset is capable of civilized behavior, why can it not continue the rest of the year?

Not just the form, but the content of the session provided hope that the nation is applying psychic brakes to prevent a further slide into the abyss of bitterness and internal division. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu gave his most conciliatory speech to date, saying "I, like others, must do my own soul-searching, must stretch out my own hand and ... walk the path of dialogue and reconciliation."

Labor Party leader Ehud Barak, perhaps taken off guard by Netanyahu's speech, was not quite as conciliatory. While calling for unity, Barak peppered his speech with veiled digs at Netanyahu's own sins in precisely this quest. Referring to Netanyahu's presence at vicious anti-Rabin rallies before the assassination and his recent comments questioning the Jewish commitment of the Left, Barak said, "We must all of us, across the political spectrum, commit today that we will never again blast each other from balconies, never ... surround ourselves with symbols of death, ... and never whisper divisive and inciting words in the ears of ... spiritual leaders."

The fact is, Barak is right: Netanyahu has what to answer for in his behavior, both before the assassination and as prime minister. The Labor leader is also right that "Reconciliation is not a matter of words in a vacuum, but of actions ...". It will take more than a few positive speeches to repair the many bridges Netanyahu has burned, both between government and opposition and within his own party.

Since his election and despite his initial pledge to work for unity, Netanyahu has displayed a penchant for defining his own accomplishments at his opponents' expense. Rather than focusing on the large overlap between the policies of the previous government and his own, he has accentuated the differences — sometimes even creating them where none exists.

For example, when explaining what he was trying to say when he was caught questioning the Jewishness of the Left, he made matters worse by accusing the Left of sharing responsibility for Israel's security with the Palestinians. This at the same time as Netanyahu had boasted, just before this summer's spate of bombings, that he had succeeded in achieving greater Palestinian security cooperation. Since the bombings, he has made sharing security responsibility, not only his policy, but a central demand from the Palestinians.

After a year in office, Netanyahu described his greatest accomplishment in the form of attacks on the opposition: preventing the drive toward a Palestinian state on Israel's pre-1967 borders. To this day, Netanyahu has not found a way to describe his own vision in a way that does not attack the Oslo Accords and the opposition's record. He has never credited Oslo for paving the way for, or at least accelerating, the peace with Jordan, or reducing Israel's isolation in the world.

Netanyahu's great problem, ironically, is that — in the big picture — he is hewing so closely to the path of his predecessors that he feels he must continually attack them to defend himself against his right wing. This strategy has had a very divisive impact on the national debate, while it has failed to really appease the Right.

The alternative is to give credit where credit is due and emphasize areas of agreement with the opposition, while continuing to insist that compliance with the Oslo Accords be mutual, not one-sided. As final-status talks approach, the areas of potential agreement between Netanyahu and Barak are much greater than the differences. Yet unless Netanyahu switches tactics and begins to spotlight the shared ground, the prospects for calming the political atmosphere are slim.

Netanyahu's new tone is about one half of what he should have done since his election. The other half is to sit down, first with his coalition, then with his opposition, and define the potential substantial areas of agreement regarding Israel's approach towards achieving peace treaties with the Palestinians, Syria, and Lebanon.

For all the talk of unity, both Netanyahu and Barak exhibit a fear of agreeing too much. That fear is misplaced; there will always be enough to disagree about. Most democracies have defined borders and no existential questions on their agenda, yet they do not lack grit for political competition. Since 1967, we have become so used to thinking that questions of peace and security must define the political spectrum that we have not noticed how much that spectrum has collapsed around a consensus position.

The task remains to flesh out that consensus in a way that shifts the core of the peace and security debate out of the Israeli political maelstrom and into the negotiations with our neighbors. Netanyahu and Barak are now discovering that talking about reconciliation is good politics. It will backfire, however, if not followed up with a concerted effort to reach agreement on the substantive level.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HAREDI GHETTOIZATION

Sir, — Jonathan Rosenblum says that the only segment of Jewry that will survive are the haredim. He doesn't understand that the world has developed over the last two hundred years, and is still developing, in the direction of more democracy, enlightenment, academic study and international modernity. But the haredi world moves in the direction of ghettoization, theocracy and obscurantism. Even countries like Russia, China, Japan, India and South Africa are slowly moving

SHARANSKY'S RECEPTION

Sir, — I was appalled to see and hear the reaction of the crowd at Rabin Square last Saturday night to Industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky when he arrived at the podium. The crowd, predominantly Labor/Left-wing, booed and hissed at his speech.

The Left prides itself on its self-perceived restraint. I remember its outcry when Rabin was booed at The Event of immigrants from the US.

However, the difference in responses is staggering. Rabin

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

60 years ago: On November 14, 1937, *The Palestine Post* reported that considerable hardships were experienced by Jewish residents of Jerusalem owing to the curfew while new shooting incidents were reported in the city and throughout the country. A number of Arab Jerusalem Municipality officials were detained for one year under the Emergency Regulations.

Five thousand persons staged a demonstration in Beirut against the arrests by the Lebanese Government of three Arabs wanted to stand trial by the Palestine Government who had fled there.

50 years ago: On November 14, 1947, *The Palestine Post* reported that Britain had rejected the Partition Plan. British troops would not be available for the enforcement of any UN Partition of

Palestine. Sir Alexander Cadogan, the British delegate to the UN, told the Sub-Committee on Partition. He stated, however, that he was authorized to say that the British authorities had been directed to plan for a complete withdrawal from Palestine by August 1, 1948.

In simultaneous attacks in Haifa and Jerusalem, presumed reprisals for the shootings by a British military search party of five Sternists at Ra'anana, gunmen shot four British civilians in Haifa, and killed a British policeman and wounded another and 28 soldiers with bombs and gunfire in Jerusalem. Curfew was imposed on large areas of Jerusalem.

The Ritz Cafe in King George Avenue in Jerusalem was thrown into shambles when about a half-dozen attackers tossed three grenades inside at the same time

word of the Torah.

My own child gives different answers. He says, "This week we learned about the dinosaurs who roamed here millions of years ago." My child continues, "Last week we learned about the French Revolution — the beginning of the modern struggle for democracy."

Jonathan Rosenblum is wrong: obscurantism will not win.

DR. MARVIN SIDMAN
Tel Aviv

capitulate and subordinate his beliefs: a Jew separated from his wife for years, waiting for permission to leave the USSR and immigrate to Israel.

How short the memory of the Left and how petty their coalition loyalties in the presence of Sharansky, who is an example to all Jews, who suffered as a Jew and who is an epitome of Zionism.

SHOSHANA WEINSTEIN
Kfar Adumim

opening fire with automatic weapons and spraying the 30 to 40 British policemen sitting around the tables.

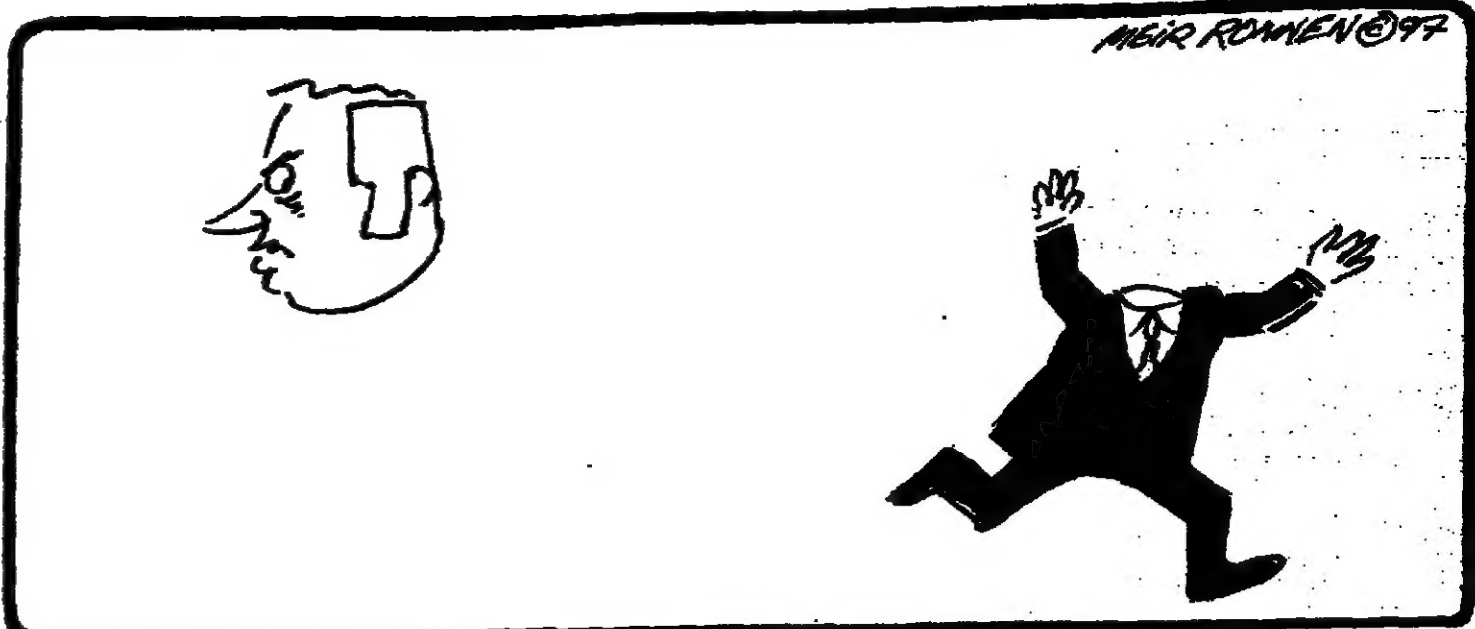
25 years ago: On November 14, 1972, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that the London Post Office was on the biggest alert since World War II after some 50 suspect letter bombs were found.

Egypt and Libya had decided to send air defense weapons, fighter planes and pilots to Damascus in order to strengthen the Syrian air force after the previous week's border flare-ups between Syria and Israel.

Hagop Antegressian, a 28-year-old resident of Jerusalem's Armenian Quarter was indicted in the District Court on charges of spying for the Soviet Union.

Alexander Zvielli

The body politic



New formulas are needed

Though not exactly "ships passing in the night," the meeting in London between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu — he on his way to Indianapolis — and US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright — she heading for Qatar — can probably best be described as a necessary prelude to the main event: the soon-to-be announced Clinton-Netanyahu meeting in Washington.

Similarly, last week's meeting between Foreign Minister David Levy and the Palestinian Authority's Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) was, in effect, also "talks to prepare talks."

There is, of course, nothing wrong or gratuitous in that. On the contrary, it may well be that some recent misunderstandings in the US-Israeli relationship could have been avoided had they been better handled.

There were conflicting reports about the outcome of the Levy-Abbas meeting. PA Chairman Yasser Arafat, continuing his campaign of inviting pressure on Israel, said that while it hadn't brought about a breakthrough, it wasn't an abject failure.

In fact, it was clear from the beginning that the US — trying to garner the support of its former Gulf War Arab coalition partners with the Iraqi crisis in mind (an effort which failed) — would be making an effort to give the talks at least a patina of success.

Another factor was the economic conference in Doha, the convening of which is very important to American policy makers. Perceived failure in the Washington talks wouldn't have

ZALMAN SHOVAL

helped things.

Probably to make life more difficult for the media, the venue for the Levy-Abbas talks was moved by the Americans from Washington to Arlington, just across the Potomac. This, however, proved to be unnecessary, as the American media were preoccupied

ed the Palestinian Covenant, which calls for Israel's destruction, in spite of Arafat's express commitment to Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres. Instead of improving the economic lot of the Palestinians, there has actually been a dramatic deterioration in their standard of living.

All sides must by now be keenly aware that the Oslo Accords have collapsed in most of their underlying premises

with the Iraqi crisis and the "English nanny affair" and didn't pay too much attention to the talks.

Though some commentators referred to the meeting as some sort of "mini-Camp David," that was wide of the mark for the simple reason that the real decision-makers weren't in Arlington, nor had it been the intention of those who were to deal with the really important topics.

Levy has correctly cited the good atmosphere prevailing at the talks and, on some of the subjects discussed, there was actually a measure of progress. Having said that, however, all sides concerned, including the US, whether admitting it or not, must by now be keenly aware that the Oslo Accords have collapsed in most of their underlying premises.

They have not stopped Palestinian terrorism, or abrogated

OSLO can no longer be considered a relevant framework for the continuation of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. To salvage peace, new formulas, perhaps even new agreements, will have to be adopted — the sooner the better.

Albright and Netanyahu, in their London meeting, and later on, the two heads of state, will have an opening to straighten out previous misunderstandings. Indeed, there is a need to shore up and reinforce mutual trust — without which there cannot be progress on the peace front.

It is important for Israel to reach a wide range of understandings with America before the all-important final-status talks with the Palestinians start, even though in certain cases, given the basic differences existing between America and Israel since 1967 on some important

issues, it won't be more than "agreeing on what to disagree."

In other words, confrontation should be avoided, or at least postponed, whenever possible. In this context, one cannot avoid mentioning the Palestinian demand that Israel stop all building in the settlements and continue with the "further redeployments" (the euphemism for further withdrawals) as a precondition for getting back to the negotiating table.

America, judging by some of the statements and leaks coming out of Washington, seems to support the Palestinian position. It is ignoring not only the less than complete Palestinian compliance with its commitment to combat terrorism and to dismantle its infrastructure, but also the contradiction between the plan to discuss all outstanding issues and asking Israel to continue withdrawing from territories under the previous interim agreements.

As a long-time observer of US-Israeli relations, I can bear evidence that Israel's support in Congress is as solid as ever. Its standing with American public opinion, in general, including that of the Jewish community, is not as bad as it is sometimes depicted — though there is certainly room for improvement.

But as important as these factors are, one must always remember that, in the final reckoning, US foreign policy is mainly made by the administration, not by anyone else.

The writer is a former ambassador to the US and currently head of the Likud's Foreign Relations Bureau.

Get out of Lebanon

NAOMI CHAZAN

ified by our actions? Surely a measured withdrawal will undermine Hizbullah's strength and focus attention on its unacceptable objective of weakening Israel.

Even if accepted, the security argument makes sense only if there is a reasonable possibility of subduing Hizbullah. The war in southern Lebanon is a guerrilla war *par excellence*. Historically, conventional armies have not succeeded in winning guerrilla wars. There is

be in a stronger position to launch an offensive, and Iran will redirect its support for Hizbullah into a more direct confrontation.

No one has exclusive rights to the crystal ball. It may be just as plausible to suggest that withdrawal would simultaneously eliminate the Syrian and Iranian hold on Lebanon and shift the regional balance of power in our favor. The Lebanese government, relieved of Syrian and Iranian pressures, may

Precisely because the issue of our presence in Lebanon was not in the headlines this week, it is timely to reassess the underlying rationale and suggest that the time is ripe for withdrawal to the international boundary.

Current policy rests on the assumption that while we have no territorial aspirations in Lebanon, we are forced to remain in the security zone because of the absence of alternatives. Such an approach rests on shaky logical ground. It is therefore vital to carefully scrutinize the justifications for the "no choice" policy that has guided consecutive governments over the past 15 years and embroiled the country in an ongoing, low-intensity war.

The first, and most pervasive, rationale is security. The security zone was purportedly created to defend the safety of our northern settlements. But time and again, residents of the North have been imperiled. Why would withdrawal to the international boundary be less defensible?

Hizbullah claims its goal is to free Lebanon of foreign occupation, although many suggest that this is only the first phase of a campaign to eliminate Israel. Why, then, should Hizbullah and its extremist Islamic ideology be for-

then consider coming to the negotiating table of its own accord.

THE second set of justifications for continued involvement in Lebanon is political. Conventional wisdom suggests that our presence in Lebanon is a critical bargaining chip in bringing Syria to the negotiating table.

One can easily suggest the opposite: Our presence in Lebanon gives Syria an indirect military option against us through its support of Hizbullah. The closure of Syria's military option in Lebanon — by withdrawing altogether — may substantially increase the possibility of direct negotiation with both Syria and an independent Lebanon.

In any event, the foundation of the political argument is in itself troubling. One need not stretch one's memory too far to recall that the Lebanon War of 1982 was launched for political motives of a totally different nature (destruction of the PLO infrastructure and a change in the political order of the country). In the vacillating politi-

cal climate of Lebanon, political motives constantly change; they cannot justify occupation.

Finally, only if the security and political arguments are accepted is it possible to address the third rationale, the human one. The price in lives of our soldiers is appalling. Since 1982, more than 1,200 soldiers have been killed in Lebanon, over 600 since the establishment of the security zone in 1985. It is not easy to defend the human cost of our presence in Lebanon, nor to find ways of helping society tolerate the steady stream of casualties.

Those who maintain that Israel has no choice but to stay in southern Lebanon must be aware that they are sentencing dozens of soldiers to death each year. On a fundamental humanitarian level, this realization demands a responsible quest for viable alternatives.

The bitter irony underlying the current discussion is that those interested in withdrawal are accused of basing their conclusions on emotion rather than reason. This charge is patently false.

Maybe, under scrutiny, it is argumentation in support of continued involvement in Lebanon that is intellectually sloppy, practically unachievable and, at root, oddly and anachronistically emotional.

We can hardly expect those responsible for constructing our policy — on the Right and on the Left — to readily admit that they, too, are pursuing this policy will freely question it. We can, however, not only demand, but also indicate a thoughtful reassessment and, ultimately, a change in this policy. The time has come for a continuous, broad-based, and serious discussion of our Lebanese policy. The time has come to get out of Lebanon.

The writer is a Meretz MK and deputy speaker of the Knesset.

POSTSCRIPT

WILL MOTORIZED in-line skates be the next thing to sweep the market? Does the public really want special underwear that promises to improve blood circulation?

Entrepreneurs from around the world gathered in Pasadena for the 11th annual Invention Convention, hoping to lure investors with a bewildering array of gadgets.

From Pennsylvania, came the Buggle 2-Minute Christmas Tree, not just another artificial tree in a

box but half of a Christmas tree. After all, most people only see one side of a tree, the maker argues.

Less perennial was the Eco Toilet, a foldable, camouflaged, cardboard potty that can be packed flat in camping gear. It sells for \$14.95.

For exercise without too much work there were Power Blades, motorized in-line skates controlled by a hand-held throttle. The \$699 contraption sports a small, noisy

engine strapped to one skate. The skates can do 30 kph.

The Pto Power Health Stockings and Socks are made from mineral fiber that the promoter said increases oxygen to the body in order to relieve stress.

Got a bad back? The \$5,000 Enestone Bed (from energy and stone) has 12 layers of protective film and marble surrounding a copper and carbon heating system.

"An Enestone Bed emits far

infrared rays and anion salutory for the human body so that a comfortable and healthy body can be maintained with good metabolism and recruitment," said Hyong Woo Lee, of Seoul.

Then there was something called Dawn 808, a South Korean-invented tea for people who overindulge. At \$5 a can, the tea purports to guarantee relief from headache, vomiting and fatigue due to hangovers.

Europe needs a code of conduct

GERALD M. STEINBERG

During his visit, Jacques Poos, the current president of the European Union, pressed the Foreign Ministry to accept a "code of conduct" in negotiations with the Palestinians. Such a code would include pledges to abstain from unilateral actions (like building new settlements or expanding existing ones) and to exchange information on terrorism and security.

Although such a code may be a good idea, the EU and its officials are in no position to tell others, particularly Israelis, how to conduct their foreign policy. The Western Europeans (including most members of the EU) were primarily responsible for selling Saddam Hussein the technology and materials for his weapons of mass destruction. French arms manufacturers made billions of francs selling him arms and electronics; the Germans sold the materials and facilities for his nuclear program; the British turned a blind eye when Saddam built his "super-gun" from parts made in England; Belgium allowed the sale of materials for chemical

THE "critical dialogue" that the EU claimed to have conducted with Tehran was a farce — a monologue with the Europeans doing all the talking. A few months ago, a French company (Total) joined a Russian firm (Gazprom) in a multi-billion agreement to develop Iranian oil fields. As a result, Iran will have an even bigger budget to acquire missiles and weapons of mass destruction.

At the same time, the European Union has sought to play a visible and central role in the Arab-Israeli negotiations. Like the Americans, the EU appointed its own "special negotiator," Miguel Moratinos, to shuttle back and forth between capitals. But for all of his efforts, Moratinos has achieved very little.

In addition to the mainly French support for Iran and Iraq, which scours any dialogue with Israel, the EU has continued its strongly pro-Palestinian approach to the peace process. A few years ago (during the tenure of the Labor government), the EU adopted a policy that requires its top officials visiting Israel to also pay a call at Orient House. Since this policy,

The EU is in no position to tell others, particularly Israelis, how to conduct their foreign policy

weapons production, etc.

But it seems that Europe as a whole and France, in particular, have learned little from this "unfortunate episode." Without any visible hesitation, the French government continues policies that encourage Saddam in his efforts to evade the terms of 1991 cease-fire agreement and Security Council Resolution 687, which require Iraq to destroy all of its weapons of mass destruction and technology.

Six-and-a-half years after his defeat and surrender, Saddam still has biological and chemical weapons, is hiding some Scud missiles, and has secretly sought to manufacture additional missiles.

Whenever the inspectors from the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) seem to make progress in uncovering more of these hidden activities, the Iraqis move in to harass and stop them. The only leverage on Saddam is the threat of additional sanctions or military attack, but when the Security Council met to consider its response, France joined Russia in blocking the American and British proposals.

The hotels in Baghdad host an increasing number of French and other European officials and businessmen, for whom the allure of Iraqi oil money overwhelms the threats posed by Saddam's efforts to revive his destructive power.

With respect to Iran, the members of the EU are more united, but their policies are no less irresponsible. Despite the violent Iranian opposition to the peace process, support for terrorism, and efforts to follow the Iraqi path toward acquiring missiles and weapons of mass destruction, Europe has provided billions of dollars in credits,

which would have been a further step in the redivision of Jerusalem, was clearly unacceptable to Israel, subsequent visits have been less than entirely official.

The EU has also attempted to use economic pressure to force Israel to make political concessions (even though it has a major trade surplus with Israel). After difficult negotiations, Israel and the EU finally signed a trade agreement which includes reciprocal exemptions from customs duties (the EU had already signed similar agreements with other Mediterranean countries).

Now, the EU is taking action to block implementation by alleging that Israel exported orange juice that was not, in fact, produced in Israel. The allegations and demand for payment of \$54 million in penalties concern events that took place years ago and are of minor importance, and the EU acted unilaterally. It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the motives are again political and have nothing to do with justice.

Instead of preaching, sending special envoys, and pressing for acceptance of a "code of conduct," the European Union might start with developing a moral code for its own members. The first step should be a complete ban on economic transactions with states or regimes that follow a policy of destruction and warfare, that provide material support for terrorism, and that are spending billions to acquire terror weapons.

And instead of blocking trade and seeking million of dollars from Israel for orange juice, the EU should be paying Israel far more in compensation for the European contribution to the Iraqi missile program.

The writer directs the Arms Control Project at the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies, Bar-Ilan University.



'Give us a king'

MARK A. HELLER

One morning this week, many Likud ministers and MKs woke up and discovered that their leader has a credibility problem. This puts them in very distinguished company — people like Bill Clinton, Hosni Mubarak, and King Hussein have already reached the same conclusion. The only difference is that it took the Likud luminaries a lot longer to catch on — or at least to acknowledge it publicly.

This is a bit surprising, since they have known Benjamin Netanyahu far longer and more intimately than any of those foreign leaders. But not until the Likud convention did understanding come. Is it possible that all these veterans of countless political wars really did not know? If so, it does not speak well for their intelligence. Perhaps they did know, but were in denial, and only broke out of it on International Depression Day. And perhaps they knew all along, but — with two notable exceptions — just didn't care enough to do anything about it.

For 18 months, these worthies generally stood by while their leader's credibility problem soured relations with Egypt, Jordan, the Palestinians, the American government, and American Jews. A few of them politely demurred; many of them muttered misgivings to journalists and other confidantes — deep background, off the record, not for citation or attribution — but none of them got up and publicly sounded the alarm. Until this week.

So what happened at the convention to bring about the epiphany? Do not look for the explanation in unbridgeable ideological differences about peace or security policy or social equity or economic restructuring or religion and the state. Those questions were not even raised. The explanation is that the leader proposed a change in party procedures — the cancellation of primaries — that would strip them all of any vestige of independent political standing.

When those who were not already his lapdogs rose up in anguished protest, the leader promised that he would retract the proposal, but he then discovered, despite his most sincere effort, that he just couldn't carry through on his promise. If all this were simply a morality play, the rest of us might easily interpret it in terms of poetic justice — the only thing that energized the ruling party politicians enough to protest was a threat to their own personal interest, so they got what they deserved. But the manner in which this happened should be of real concern to the audience as well.

WHAT Netanyahu has done to the Likud elite is perfectly consistent with his profound antipathy to every other elite in our society — the press, the judicial establishment, the intellectuals, and even the top echelons of the security establishment. To consolidate his power, he has contracted an alliance with the mob, represented in this case by the central committee, whose purpose is to pulverize all the intermediary layers that stand between leader and mass society.

In return for their adoration, their loyal blood, and just because it didn't work before, in the Bar-On Affair, doesn't mean that it can't work in the future.

At this stage, no coercion is used to give the prime minister more power. And none is yet needed, since "the people" — central committee, party members, and large numbers of voters — are still willing partners. But this is a route whose last station is clear: plebiscitary democracy and elections in which the leader gets 99.4% of the vote and can do whatever he wants (or vice versa). Unless this route is blocked, Israel may not even need a successful peace process to be integrated into the region.

As for almost everything else, there is a cautionary tale for this danger in the Bible that Netanyahu and his minions profess to hold so dear. Once upon a time, another mob cried out to have a king. In response, Samuel conveyed God's warning to the people that asked him for a king. "The king," said Samuel, "will take your sons... and he will take your daughters... and he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your olive groves... and he will take the tenth of your seed... the tenth of your flock; and ye shall be his servants... And you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen; and the Lord will not answer you." Of course, there's no mystery about the rest of the story. "But the people refused to heed Samuel's voice, and they said: 'Nay, but there shall be a king over us... that we may be like all the nations.'"

Of course, it is impossible to be like all the nations, because there are so many different types. But one of those types reared its head at the Likud convention. Could that be the real fear that many of the party's own leaders suddenly felt this week?

The writer is senior research associate at the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University.

The process that started at the Likud convention ends in elections in which the leader gets 99.4% of the vote

Court run amok

JONATHAN ROSENBLUM

When my favorite law school professor wanted to express his contempt for judicial opinions devoid of legal reasoning he would conjure up a picture of a corpulent mideastern potentate seated under a palm tree dispensing justice according to his own lights. Kadi justice he called it. And Kadi justice is what we have in Israel today.

Our Supreme Court no longer feels the need to justify its usurpation of the decision-making authority of the legislative and executive branches or to offer any rational for its decisions other than "We say so." A case in point is its recent order that Educational TV air a show in which four teenage homosexuals discuss their sexual preferences.

Minister of Education Zevulun Hammer, relying on a panel of experts, had determined that the show should be made more balanced before it was shown on Educational TV. But a three-judge panel of the Supreme Court, including President Aharon Barak, simply substituted its judgment for that of Hammer and ordered the program broadcast.

The entirety of Justice Kedmi's brief opinion for the unanimous

dent. The court just took for granted its right to review every government decision and to substitute its judgment for that of the official to whom responsibility is delegated. That is government by judicial fiat pure and simple.

THE American Legal Realists of the 1920s (much beloved by Justice Barak) posited that the result in any case is simply a function of the judge's ideology and prejudices. However dubious that observation was with respect to the American legal system, it perfectly describes the current Supreme Court. If one knows the justices' political views, one can predict with almost hundred percent accuracy the outcome in any given case.

The justices are, completely result oriented. Institutional concerns about the role of a judiciary in a democratic society never restrain them in their headlong rush to reach what they deem the most beneficial result for society. They assume without question their right to serve as ombudsmen over the unenlightened hoi polloi.

Justice Kedmi and his colleagues are sympathetic to homosexuals. So they created a "right of free expression" to

The Supreme Court is doing nothing more than imposing its particular values on society

panel can be summarized in his glib observation that teenage homosexuality exists and hiding our head in the sand will not make it go away. Without a shred of evidence, the court assumed that a positive portrayal of homosexuality could have no impact on its incidence. (Not that the justices would have cared if it did.) Thus even as pop psychologists, the justices showed themselves to be inept.

Even a cursory glance at societies from ancient Athens, where homosexuality was ubiquitous among upper-class males, to the Orthodox Jewish world, in which, according to the Kinsey Report, it is almost unknown, shows how socially conditioned homosexuality is.

Apartment from Israel's Supreme Court under Justice Barak, most judges in democratic countries are sensitive to the inherent tension between democratic government and judicial review by unelected justices. Thus in reviewing administrative decisions of elected officials or administrative agencies, judges are careful to make clear that they are not substituting their own ab initio judgment for that of the official upon whom responsibility for making the decision is conferred.

A court reviewing an administrative law decision typically begins with a lengthy description of the statutory grant of authority to the decision-maker: the factors he is directed to consider, the procedures he is to follow, the degree of discretion given him. Next the judge will turn to the scope of judicial review and the standard to be applied by the court in evaluating the administrative decision. Usually such decisions will be reversed only if they are arbitrary or capricious.

Israel's Supreme Court, however, felt constrained to undertake none of these inquiries. Justice Kedmi did not even bother to cite one statute or prece-

force Israel TV to show programs positively portraying homosexuality.

The court did not even acknowledge what it was doing. Even these Warren Court wannabes know that no country in the world has recognized a "right" for any identifiable subgroup in society to have its views aired on public TV. The First Amendment of the American Constitution, for instance, protects against government abridgment of free speech. It is defensive in nature. It does not grant any citizen the right to have the government or privately-owned media promulgate his views.

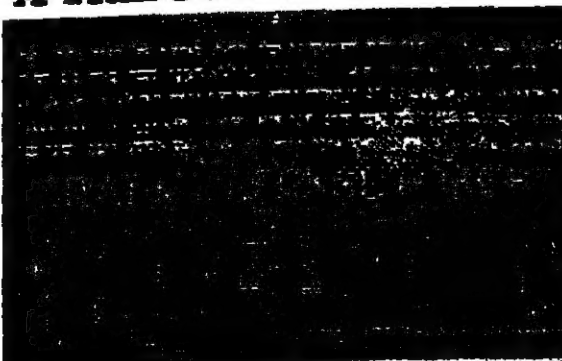
The justices themselves do not even believe in the right they implicitly discovered. It just happened to be the means to reach the desired result in this case.

Imagine that a group calling itself the Committee for Media Fairness to Haredim produced an interview with four haredi teenagers discussing their lives. And now imagine Educational TV refused to broadcast the show. Does anyone dream that the Supreme Court would grant the committee standing to challenge the decision of the broadcast authority or order the program shown? The committee would more likely be assessed court costs for filing a frivolous suit.

That hypothetical case conveys some sense of the extent to which the court is doing nothing more than imposing its particular values on society. They are taking advantage of the public's long-standing apathy and, as an oligarchy lacking all judicial craftsmanship and without any sense of limits on its own power, forces its "enlightened" views upon us.

The writer, a Jerusalem Post columnist, is a graduate of Yale Law School and has published in legal journals.

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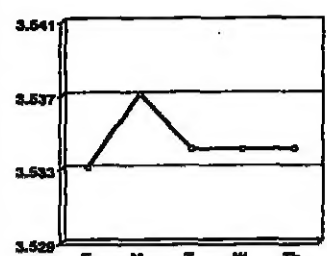
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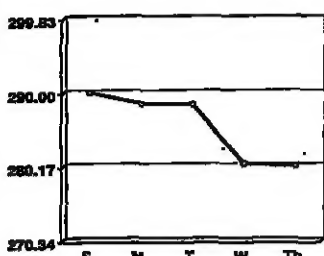
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in brief

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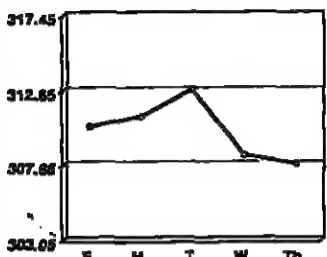


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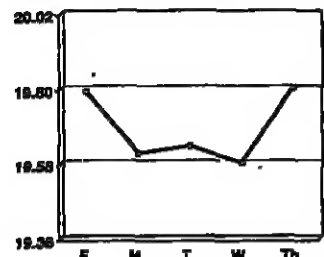
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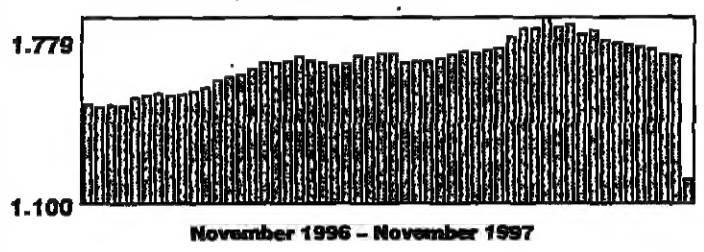


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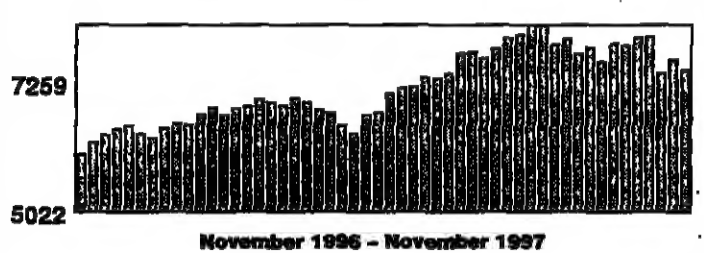
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Israel-Egypt tourism slumps in first half

There was a considerable drop in the number of tourists traveling between Israel and Egypt in the first half of the year, compared to the equivalent period in 1996, according to figures published yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

Some 6,500 Egyptians visited Israel between January and June, a 38 percent decline, with 135,200 Israelis traveling to Egypt, down 13%.

During the first six months of the year, 19,700 entered from Jordan, a 1% drop compared to the first half of last year, while 79,200 Israelis visited Jordan, a similar figure to that for last year's period.

More than 50% of tourists from Egypt arrived here via Eilat and another 40% through Rafah. These figures represent a turnaround on the same period last year, in which more than 50% entered through Rafah and 43% through Eilat.

Of all visitors from Jordan, 63% crossed at the Sheikh Hussein Bridge, down 3% in actual numbers on last year, with 34% arriving via the Allenby Bridge, a 6% increase. The number of Israelis leaving for Jordan through the Arava crossing fell 4% and by the Sheikh Hussein Bridge by 3%.

Of Israelis traveling to Egypt, 94% left from Eilat bound for Sinai, a 10% drop on the figure from last year. *Davis Harris*

Bezeq flotation could be delayed

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

The government's flotation of a 7 percent to 10% stake in Bezeq Ltd., planned for later this month, may be postponed as a result of allegations that its long-distance subsidiary employed unfair pricing tactics. Tzipi Livni, director-general of the Government Companies Authority, said yesterday.

Earlier this week, Antitrust Authority director-general David Tadmor issued a report stating that Bezeq International implemented policies with the intention of "misleading the public regarding pricing."

"We have to address several issues on the drawing board and so the flotation may not happen by the end of the month," Livni said. "One of the things we're working on with the Israel Securities Authority is the issue of Bezeq International."

Tadmor's 35-page report, delivered to Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein and other government officials, incriminated Bezeq International's top executives for "blurring" their tariffs. Rubinstein now



Government Companies Authority director-general Tzipi Livni

must decide whether to prosecute. Minister of Industry and Trade Natan Sharansky said he will investigate whether the pricing practices breached consumer



Communications Minister Limor Livnat

protection law. If so, he said he will bring the case to magistrate's court. On Wednesday, Communications Minister Limor Livnat told the Knesset that

her ministry had suspected that Bezeq International might be implementing unfair trade practices.

"We followed them enough and we used our authority regarding Bezeq, and there were things that we thought might damage competition or mislead the public," she said.

Meanwhile, several lawyers issued a NIS 52 million class-action suit against the company in Beersheba District Court.

"Bezeq International confused the public into thinking its prices were lower than they were," said Ori Stendel, one of the lawyers who served the suit. "The fact that people thought the prices were lower hurt them doubly, because not only was this unfair to the consumer, but when you think the prices are low, you talk longer on the phone."

The flotation, which is scheduled take place on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, is part of the government's plan to reduce its holding in Bezeq Ltd. from 65% to 52% by the end of the year.

In July, investment house Merrill Lynch purchased 12.4% of the company's shares.

Greenspan: Asia turmoil no threat to US

By MICHAEL MCKEE

Continuing economic turmoil in Asia doesn't yet pose a threat to the US economy, though it's likely to cut US corporate profits. Federal Reserve Board chairman Alan Greenspan said yesterday.

"To date, the direct impact of these developments on the American economy has been modest, but it can be expected not to be negligible," Greenspan said in testimony being delivered to the House Banking Committee.

The Fed chairman said that depending on the extent of the slowdown in Asia, "the growth of our exports will tend to be muted." Although direct US corporate investment and earnings from the region are smaller than the US share of exports, "the share is, nonetheless, large enough to expect some drop off in those earnings in the period ahead."

In addition, Greenspan said there will be "indirect effects on the US real economy from countries such as Japan that compete even more extensively with the economies in the Asian region." Separately, he said turbulence in Latin American markets may reflect contagion effects from Asia or home-grown causes. However, "this phenomenon illustrates the interdependencies in today's world economy and financial systems," he said.

Deputy Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers also said he sees no "significant risk to United States financial institutions or to domestic financial stability as a whole as a result of the turbulence to date. However, a 'great many uncertainties remain,' he said, including the extent to which growth slows in Asia and the

effect of the depreciation of Asian currencies, along with the impact on Japan - and what that does to US exports.

"As a result, the direct and indirect trade impact on our economy of a prolonged period of slower growth in Southeast Asia, and the large decline in its currencies, is potentially significant," Summers said.

While Summers said he agrees with Greenspan's October 29 assessment that the impact on the US economy will be "modest, but not negligible," that will "depend heavily on stability being restored as soon as possible." Summers said speculative attacks on Asian currencies didn't trigger the crisis.

"These flows were driven by domestic investors losing confidence in their own country's currency and seeking to diversify their holdings," he said.

He also repeated the US position that the International Monetary Fund should play the primary role in international efforts to stabilize Asian economies. And he called on Congress to approve a Clinton administration request for additional IMF funding.

House and Senate negotiators agreed last night to a \$13.1 billion foreign aid budget stripped of billions of dollars for the United Nations and IMF after a fight largely driven by the divisive domestic politics of abortion.

Republicans want the administration to accept tougher anti-abortion restrictions on US-backed overseas family planning programs, which would receive \$385 million in the bill, and by withholding provisions to give the IMF \$3.5 billion and the UN \$926 million. (Bloomberg)

Gov't, Channel 2 agree on new channel

By HELEN KAYE

Communications Minister Limor Livnat and the Second Television and Radio Authority Council have announced their cooperation on the establishment of a new commercial TV channel by the end of 1999.

After almost being at each other's throats over STRA's right, under the Second Authority Broadcast Law, to determine a time frame for the renewal of its franchisees' licenses, the breakthrough came "when Livnat understood that we have no problem with another commercial channel," said STRA general manager Nahman Shai. "All we want is to run Channel 2 as permitted us by law."

For her part, Livnat said that the clause in the economic arrangements bill dealing with the Channel 2 franchise renewals could be voided if there were an understanding among all parties that the new commercial station

can be up and running by the end of 1999.

The clause would have put off by several months next year's deadline by which the STRA is to decide whether or not to extend the current franchisees, held by Reshet, Keshet and Tel-Ad, for another four years from 1999, when the franchises are set to expire.

The STRA, Livnat's office, and the Cable and Satellite Channel Council and others will meet to create a framework for such a channel. The same body, headed by STRA Council head Prof. Gideon Doron, will consolidate principles that will enable the establishment of a National Broadcast Authority as recommended by the Peled Commission Report last June.

Tenders are expected to be issued by the end of next year, said Shai, adding that "another commercial channel can only be good for the consumer, for business and for the industry."

Barak named as best long-distance phone company

Barak has been rated by the consumer magazine *Obyektiv* as the all-around best and cheapest overseas dialing service, compared to Bezeq International and Golden Lines.

The third issue of the consumer magazine notes that Barak's pricing schedule is free of linkage deals.

"Barak offers a unified schedule, without machinations, small print, confusing offers or registration of

subscribers. They don't charge very expensive rates for calls to certain places in the world."

Obyektiv also praises the company for its central operators' quick response to queries; they respond within an average of four seconds. *Judy Siegel*

Israel, China sign agriculture pact

By DAVID HARRIS

Israel and China on Wednesday signed an agricultural agreement paving the way for greater cooperation between the two countries.

The agreement, signed by Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan and his counterpart Liu Jiarang, will lead to increased exports to China of agricultural products, technology, and investment, ministry Director-General Danny Krichman said yesterday.

The agreement, based on talks in May when Eitan visited Beijing, includes the establishment of a joint research and development center in China and a joint research fund (the sum to be contributed by the partners has yet to be fixed). Additionally, an experimental flower-producing area will be set up in China. Israeli companies are already beginning work on the flower project.

SOME INVESTORS SLEPT PEACEFULLY THROUGH THE MARKET CRISIS

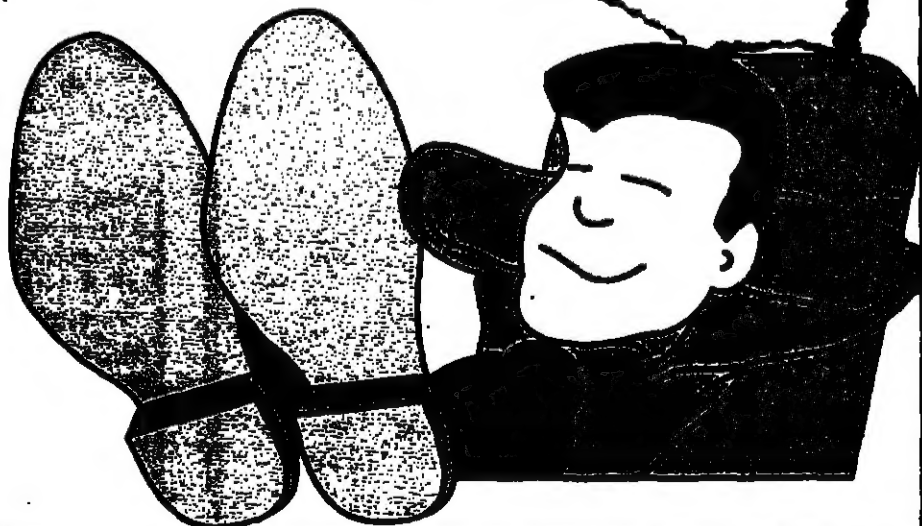
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Date of decision: September 23, 1997

Value of winning tender: \$1,125,630
- Subject and scope of tender:** No. 610897 - Supply of safety meters

Name and address of winner: Hayozzer Electro Mechanical Works, Kiryat Bialik

Date of decision: September 23, 1997

Value of winning tender: \$598,025

Lowest bid: \$598,025

Highest bid: \$695,706
- Subject and scope of tender:** No. 610897 - Supply of Network Transformers

Tender No. 521015 - 1,135 transformers

Tender No. 548476 - 3,117 transformers

Name and address of winner: Ardan, Yokneam

Date of decision: September 15, 1997

Value of winning tender: \$27,127,385

Lowest bid for Tender No. 521015: \$8,200,000

Lowest bid for Tender No. 548476: \$19,000,000

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Bond	510.0	0.0	Hedge Bond B	151.5
Borandowitz	185.5	0.0	Hedge Lat	2012.0
Borandowitz Bond 1	758.0	-1.8		
Borand				

The cost of victory



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu acknowledges the applause of Likud activists at the party convention this week. (AP)

Netanyahu may have outmaneuvered his bitter ministers, but what impact will the tumultuous Likud convention have on the party rank-and-file?
Herb Keinon reports

Primary history

The Likud convention's decision to throw the nomination of its Knesset list back to the central committee rolls back a democratization process that began in the country's major parties in 1977. Up to then the country's two big parties had picked their candidates via a small nominating committee inside their central committees. These nominating committees—numbering around 20—would sit down and, after looking at the various sectors that need to be represented, thrash out a list. It was quintessential backroom politics. The Likud initiated a revolution of sorts in 1977, when it opened up the process to the entire central committee by way of a convoluted system called "sepiets." The upshot was that instead of 20 people selecting the list, it would now be selected by the whole committee. Labor, seeing the Likud's success in the elections of that year, followed suit. (Some of the smaller parties, such as Mapam and Ahdut Ha'avoda, had already opened the process to the central committees in the mid-1960s.) In 1992, Labor decided to "out-democratize" Likud, and opted for the system whereby the list would not be picked by the central committee, but rather by the party's entire membership in "primaries," a term borrowed from the American political system. Seeing Labor's success in the 1992 elections, and how the primaries seemed to reinvigorate the party, it was the Likud—with Benjamin Netanyahu's urging—that followed suit this time and initiated primaries that determined the slate for the 1996 list. —J.E.

net far and wide. Now that's over. Lipsky has petitioned the party's internal court against the decision to trash the primaries, maintaining that this central committee cannot make changes that go into effect while it is still serving. This, he said, would be the equivalent of Knesset members voting to extend their term by a year, to be effective immediately, not with the next Knesset. Lipsky said that if the court challenge doesn't work, a shadow party—a Likud 2—will go ahead and hold primaries in an attempt to force the mother party's hand. A true Netanyahu believer, Lipsky does not hold the goings-on at the Likud convention against his leader. "I don't think Bibi was behind it," he said. "I don't think it is to Bibi's advantage. I think he is doing a fantastic job as prime minister, and should be judged by his job as prime minister, not whether we are pleased with his performance as chairman of party. That is irrelevant to whether we need him as the prime minister of Israel." If Lipsky has seen his long-shot Knesset aspirations dashed, Roni L., an Efrat resident who didn't want his last name used for fear that what he says may somehow be used against his place of employment, is one of the tens of thousands of people who signed up for the Likud in 1995 in order to vote in the primaries. Yesterday he called his bank and ordered it to stop his standing order to pay Likud dues. "I joined the party before the last elections, when Netanyahu started to pick the Likud up from off the floor," he said. "But now I'm through. I refuse to be a member of a party that is being run by hacks, charlatans, and people interested only in power." Roni said that it is clear the central committee rebellion is about jobs, patronage and perks.

See VICTORY, Page 14

The dim view from Beit Shemesh

Dan Izenberg visits a Likud stronghold and finds residents disillusioned and angry with the party leadership

It looks like Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his right-hand man, Avigdor Lieberman, by reportedly arranging for this week's Likud Party convention to do away with the party primaries, have created the proper conditions for a Likud faction of highly disciplined lackeys in the next Knesset. But if party stronghold Beit Shemesh is anything to go by, they may find their faction sitting on the opposition benches. Netanyahu and Lieberman were shrewd enough to understand the true balance of power between the glittering leadership of the party, and the group of anonymous activists comprising the party convention. But in focusing all their attention on the constitutional weakness of the ministers, Netanyahu, Lieberman and the activists may have forgotten to look over their shoulders at the rank-and-file membership which empowered all of them in the first place. If an unsentimental series of interviews is indicative of anything, it shows that even in this Likud bastion, which gave 78 percent of the vote to Netanyahu in 1996, where political feeling is usually more emotional than analytical, Netanyahu and Lieberman have alienated some of their most loyal backers. To put things in perspective, there are about 1,500 paid-up Likud members in Beit Shemesh, out of a total population of some 30,000. The straw poll showed that of nine Likud party members or supporters spoken to, three have quit or will quit the party over the cancellation of the primaries or related issues, a fourth favors restoring power to the central committee but will vote against Netanyahu if Ze'ev (Benny) Begin or Dan Meridor runs against him, a fifth opposes the decision but supports Foreign Minister David Levy, [National Infrastructure Minister Ariel] Sharon, and [Tourism Minister Moshe] Katsav in favor of newcomers like Yvette [Avigdor] Lieberman, who are setting the tone. I no longer support the Likud.

Cohen said the decision to abolish the primaries "is a blow. If there are no primaries, we are being cast aside. I feel personally hurt." Cohen said the decision to choose the list of MKs via primaries had been a progressive move. "Now we are going backwards to the central committee and the 'panel of seven' system. No one asked us our opinion or consulted with us. The members of the convention want power, nothing more." "I have always voted Likud. This time, if they abolish the primaries, they will lose me and many other people I know, who feel the same way I do." As if to back up that statement, a friend of Cohen's joined the discussion and said that he, too, planned to return his party membership card. "All the members of the convention want is to use their positions for personal gain," he said, declining to identify himself. Motti Amar, 41, stopped paying his Likud membership dues three months ago and says he is no longer involved in the party's intrigues. That doesn't mean he doesn't have an opinion on the current controversy, however. "I'm against canceling the primaries because it is the best way of choosing the party candidates," said Amar. "The members of the convention want to give themselves the power to choose whomever they want." Amar likes Netanyahu, but says those around the prime minister are ruining things. "They are telling Netanyahu what to do," he explained. "As a result, he has abandoned party veterans like [Foreign Minister David] Levy, [National Infrastructure Minister Ariel] Sharon, and [Tourism Minister Moshe] Katsav in favor of newcomers like Yvette [Avigdor] Lieberman, who are setting the tone. I no longer support the Likud."



Eduard Assis (right) still backs the premier: 'I voted for Netanyahu. Let him decide whatever he wants.'

(Ariel Jerozolimski)

'If there are no primaries, we are being cast aside,' said long-term Likud member Moshe Cohen. 'I feel personally hurt.'

person brings 500 of his cronies into the committee and he can do anything he wants, including becoming prime minister. "Don't get me wrong. I like Netanyahu. But Lieberman will bring 1,000 Russians into the convention and take it over. Meanwhile, they are getting rid of our people—people like Levy and [MK Meir] Sheerit. What will

happen from now on? Everyone will come fawning to Lieberman and whatever he says, will go. That's called dictatorship." NOT EVERYONE in Beit Shemesh takes as grave a view of the issue as Edri. "Today, everyone in the country is arguing about something or other," said 31-year-old Haim Cohen. "Everyone wants to be prime minister, so everyone is arguing. It's the same in the Labor Party." Cohen said that even though he is a Likud Party member, "it won't bother me if I can't vote in primaries. It makes no difference to me. I support the Likud." Meir Elias, 54, cares about the primaries, but not enough to leave the Likud. "Of all the possible systems one can conceive of, the primaries are the best," said Elias. "But I have always supported the Likud and I always will—even if they take away my right to choose the MKs."

Edvard Assis, 55, says it's the prime minister's prerogative to decide what kind of system should be used to choose the MKs. "I voted for Netanyahu," said Assis. "Let him decide whatever he wants. That's the way it should be." Not surprisingly, the most ardent defendants in Beit Shemesh of the convention's decision to abolish the primaries are activists higher up in the Likud hierarchy. One of them is Eli Butbul, former central committee member and current aide to Beit Shemesh Mayor Daniel Vaknin. Butbul believes that the decision to abolish the primaries is part of the cleaning-up act that Netanyahu launched four years ago, when he was elected party chairman. "People are fed up with the infighting in the Likud," said Butbul. "In 1993, the feeling was that we lost the election only because of the discord within the party. The Likud elected a leader and he should be allowed to lead."

According to Butbul, some Likud MKs and ministers have not learned the lessons of the 1992 election defeat and have tried to undermine Netanyahu by attacking in public policies adopted by the government majority. "Everyone does whatever he feels like, even when it goes against the prime minister," said Butbul. "But, in fact, the prime minister is first among equals." Butbul believes that those who criticize government policy are motivated by nothing more than self-interest. "They go over the heads of the prime minister and the movement in order to tell the 200,000 Likud voters that they are different," he said. "In doing so, they

know they will get a few headlines in the newspaper." He rejects the accusations that the convention members want to retrieve power in order to gain lucrative jobs and influence for themselves. "Maybe there are one or two people who think that way, but I am talking about national considerations," said Butbul. "We have to create the conditions which will make people behave properly." BUTBUL DENIED that Lieberman controlled the convention members and could make them do whatever he pleased. "They are independent thinkers, not a flock of sheep," he said. He also denied that the decision to abolish the primaries and hand the power of choosing the list of MKs to the central committee was an anti-democratic move. Butbul said that at the grass-roots level of party activity—in Beit Shemesh, like everywhere else—the more active and ambitious party members recruited their friends so that when they ran for office, they would have their own supporters to vote for them. "This means that the members of the central committee are the authentic representatives of the party membership," said Butbul. Moshe Cohen, the man who plans to return his party membership card, found Butbul's explanation simplistic. "I tried to get elected to the central committee, but I dropped out when I saw that I was confronted with a political mafia," said Cohen. In fact, by Butbul's own account, there were no elections in Beit Shemesh in 1993 for the list of party branch leaders or central committee representatives. "The Beit Shemesh branch of the Likud is one of the most unified in the country," he said. "Many things are done by consensus. There are no wars of the Jews fought here. We drew up a list of representatives by mutual consent." Netanyahu and Lieberman won an astounding political victory this week over the veteran leadership of the party. And since there is probably a long way to go before the next election, long-time Likud supporters, angry as they may be right now, will have plenty of time to cool down before they must face the traumatic possibility of voting for someone other than Netanyahu. But if the Likud dissidents decide to make good their veiled threat of defection, they may find a ready-made constituency itching for revenge.

Continued from Page 13

"People come to the elections

When asked whether this is wise, since a smaller Likud faction will open Netanyahu up to more pressure and demands from the smaller parties within the coalition, Brichta replied: "Now he has both a weak faction and extortion from the small parties. It is in his interest to have one or the other, not both." The events of the past week indicate he is opting for the latter.

Henry Kissinger says the US and Israel have been talking past one another. It's time for a strategic understanding, he tells Thomas O'Dwyer

Kissinger speaks of his "complex personal situation" in his dealings with the Middle East. A German-born Jew who lost 13 members of his family in Nazi death camps, he has always felt his destiny is linked to Israel's.

Kissinger: 'Assad is never going to feel he must make a great contribution to coexistence. But he is willing to make a practical arrangement.' (Israel Sun)

"Therefore the two sides [the US and Israel] have been talking past one another," he said. "I would really like to see that strategic understanding between Israel and the US. One doesn't know what might happen if that could be achieved... There really has been only one high level meeting between the secretary of state [Madeleine

Kissinger said that on every visit here, he keeps getting asked when Assad is going to see the light.

"Look, we Americans have this tendency to believe we are some sort of schoolmasters of humanity, forever lecturing on proliferation, and this, and that. What Russia wants to do is to elbow its way into Middle East diplomacy to show the United States it cannot be ignored... What Russia wants to do is show it is a major player in the Middle East, and it might follow short-sighted policies while doing so."

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How fertile is the crescent?

US officials see business opportunities in the Middle East despite the lukewarm response to the regional summit in Doha that opens on Sunday, Hillel Kuttler reports from Washington

At the 1995 regional economic summit in Amman, Egypt and Qatar fought for the right to host the next annual event. So a compromise was struck: Cairo in 1996 and Doha in 1997.

That was then, this is now. "We don't have that competition this time around," a senior Clinton administration official acknowledged the other day.

Gone is the heady atmosphere surrounding the groundbreaking Casablanca conference that was held three years ago. Given current Arab recriminations against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, many US officials say it is a wonder that the fourth Middle East Economic Conference, which starts on Sunday, is being held at all.

That it is, they say, is a tribute to the administration's persistence and to the Qataris' refusal to buckle under to the threats of their Arab brethren, mainly the Syrians and Saudis.

Officials of the Commerce and State departments prefer to see the glass as half-full.

They point to the expected attendance of more than 150 Americans and 125 Qataris among the 750 representatives from the private sector worldwide, and the increased Asian business presence at Doha.

One official even claimed that only the lack of hotel space in the host city — two ships are being pressed into service to accommodate people — is preventing greater attendance.

At the same time, they bemoan the decrease in attendance of businesspeople from the region, who represent the foundation on which expanded intra-regional trade

must be built. And, of course, they are concerned by the decision by many Arab governments to send lower-level officials or to boycott the conference entirely.

"Frankly, it's a triumph to do it at all under the current circumstances," the US official said, of the effect of the crisis in Israeli-Palestinian negotiations on the Doha conference.

WHILE SUSPICION about Netanyahu nearly caused Egypt to abort last year's event, the situation is more dire this year, the official said.

"They had doubts. A year ago, we said, 'Give [Netanyahu] a chance. Now, they don't see this Israeli government as much of a partner. They've got a perception. We're not going to turn that perception around."

The US was determined not to let the Doha conference collapse. This is because "we feel that we cannot afford to allow the institutions of the process to die or to collapse, because it will be that much more difficult" to resuscitate in the future, said Martin Indyk, the new assistant secretary of state for Near East affairs. Indyk made his remarks in a lecture here Wednesday, just days after returning from the Persian Gulf, where he had lobbied on behalf of the conference.

ALL THIS occurs as the giant just up the Gulf, Iraq, is again in the news, tweaking the US by refusing to allow Americans to participate in the UN's weapons inspections. Rob Sallouff of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy said Doha and Baghdad are unrelated, but they "underscore the competing trends in the region."

"One, Saddam was there before Madrid, since Madrid, and Saddam is still there; and two, the rise and fall of multilateralism. It seems to me this [Doha] is pretty much the last gasp of the great regional ideas after Madrid. The [regional development] bank is dead, the [five sets of] multilateral negotiations are dead," Sallouff said.

Washington also values the conference because it believes it helps stimulate economic reform. Businesspeople and government officials interviewed attribute Egyptian and Qatari economic liberalizations in part to the hosts' recognizing the importance of improving their own climate for attracting international business.

This time around, there are fewer grand schemes for regional integration, along the lines of the Jordan Rift Valley development project of two years ago.

But, according to undersecretary of state for economic affairs Stuart Eizenstat, the US is still "pushing hard" to advance the Rift Valley plan, as well as the Akaba airport, a development account for the territories via the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), a federal agency, the Gaza industrial zone and the Israel-Egypt "peace pipeline," a gas pipeline between the two countries.

The US is also nurturing the Israel-Jordan joint venture for a Global TransPark at Akaba. Eizenstat and other US officials say the office of the US Trade Representative (USTR) could announce at Doha that the US is granting the TransPark, as well as Irbid, Jordan, "qualified industrial zone" status, giving these areas preferential access to the American market.

At Cairo last year, the US

announced multimillion-dollar deals between American and Middle Eastern companies, and this year three or more huge deals will be signed. Officials don't want to steal the thunder from Secretary of State Madeleine Albright by revealing what they are, but it was learned that one of the deals is a \$750 million joint venture between Phillips Petroleum, based in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, and the Qatar General Petroleum Corporation to build a petrochemical plant.

The sides have been hammering out the terms since Phillips won the contract in May, and US officials believe that the approach of the Doha conference is spurring

the sides to bring it to closure.

The Commerce Department is buoyed, too, by two major deals US companies signed recently: one for \$1 billion between Hughes Space Communications of Los Angeles and Thuraya Satellite Telecommunications Company of the United Arab Emirates for a satellite mobile communications system, and another for \$1.6 billion between CMS Energy of Dearborn, Michigan, and Morocco's national utility company, ONE, to construct a 1,300 megawatt power plant at Jorf Lasfar.

Albright, Eizenstat, Commerce Secretary William Daley and his undersecretary David Aaron are

heading the US's government delegation. American companies are bidding on 24 deals with companies in the region, worth about \$20 billion, and Albright and Daley will lead the advocacy effort.

GENERAL ELECTRIC's vice president and senior counsel Mike Gadbow will be at Doha with about six colleagues. He said GE is participating both to support the emirate and to encourage further "policy reform to create a better environment" for doing business in the region.

"The opportunities for trade and the elimination of trade barriers are greater in this region than any other region," he said. "The

[potential] benefits are tremendous."

He cited Egypt's privatization liberalization policy and Saudi Arabia's desire to get into the World Trade Organization as evidence of improvements.

GE does "quite a significant percentage" of its \$90 billion of annual revenue in the region and is going to Doha looking to arrange deals in power generation, transportation and aircraft engines, Gadbow said.

The political problems are a concern, but Gadbow hopes that they don't "monopolize all the attention" at Doha.

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MEIR RONEN © 97

Behind-the-scenes trade

While most Arab countries are boycotting the Doha conference, Arab and Israeli businesspeople say quietly that they are trading more than ever. The biggest obstacle is bureaucracy, Steve Rodan writes

At first glance, the slight man with the trimmed mustache looked like your average Middle Eastern tourist, albeit a well-dressed one. His suit was made of the finest cotton, and he sported a silk tie.

The traveler turned out to be a prince from one of the Gulf states. His destination was Israel. His goal was to buy arms — at least a billion dollars worth.

That may sound like a tale from *The Thousand and One Nights*, but it has been confirmed by diplomatic sources who refused to divulge further details lest they give away the prince's identity or that of his country.

If that story sounds fantastic, consider the Arab businessman who offered to sell Israel millions of tons of cheap oil annually in exchange for a pipeline through the country.

While most Arab states are boycotting the three-day Middle East economic conference that starts in Qatar on Sunday, Arab and Israeli businesspeople say quietly that they are trading more than ever.

Despite Israeli-Arab tensions, deals are being completed without fanfare in Arab and European capitals. They involve purchases of products that few people would ever dream of Israel exporting to the Arab world, including military hardware.

"We have made sales of a couple of million dollars to more than one Arab country," says Israel Military Industries president Shlomo Milo. "They approached us," he adds, declining to elaborate.

Ziad K. Abdelnour, a Lebanese-born managing director of the New York-based InterBank Capital Group, has watched Arabs and Israelis forge business contacts and joint ventures for years.

"It is a fact that Arabs and Israelis have been conducting business for the last 15-20 years," he says. "This has been private business. It hasn't taken place only during the peace process of the last three years or four years, but for a long time."

Abdelnour, who has also written about Middle East economies for prominent US academic journals, asserts that Arab investors are drawn to Israel for several reasons: their geographic proximity, the quality of Israeli technology and marketing, and most important, the likelihood of getting an American investor involved.

"Business between Israel and the Arabs is dependent on the political situation but it is increasing as well," Abdelnour says.

"It is increasing at the rate of 8 to 10 percent a year. If there were a political settlement, it would go up to 22 percent a year. The gain for the Arabs is that if the Arabs want to attract Western and especially American investors, they have to make peace with Israel."



MEIR RONEN © 97

According to the accounting firm Coopers & Lybrand, Israel is second in the world today as a recipient for venture capital for financing investments. It is outdone this year only by the US.

There are two kinds of business being conducted between Israelis and Arabs. The first sort is of a high-profile nature, such as a venture involving 28-year-old entrepreneur Daniel Lubetzky. In 1994, he founded The Peaceworks, Inc. with Israeli and Arab investors, to encourage peace through economics.

Today, Mexican-born Lubetzky markets a line of condiments composed of tomatoes and olives. The produce is grown by Palestinians and manufactured by Israelis. The spreads are called Moshe Pupik and Ali Mishumken's World Famous Gourmet Foods. Pupik means belly button in Hebrew. Mishumken in Arabic could be translated as incredible.

The name might sound more like it belongs at a Middle Eastern parleys.

The spread, plus Lubetzky's spreads, basil pesto sauce and olive oil, are sold in more than 2,600 outlets in the US, Mexico, Canada, Europe and parts of South America. Sales in the US total more than \$1 million.

"In the modest venture that we started, things cannot be better," Lubetzky says, speaking from his mobile phone between business deals somewhere in New Jersey. "We [Arabs and Israelis] are the strongest of allies. We haven't educated people enough to show that Arabs and Israelis are working together. All you hear on the news is the negative."

In Lubetzky's case, good business has also become good politics. Both Israeli and Jordanian diplomats have endorsed the project.

Leading Americans have joined in as well, including Ben Cohen, cofounder of Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream, and Leonard Hausman, a leading economist at Harvard University who has been a US envoy at Middle East economic parleys.

Then there is the quiet business cooperation. Here, there are no announcements of deals, no release of sales figures and usually no government recognition.

An Arab participant in joint ventures with Israelis says the scenarios for such deals fall into two categories. The easy deal is one concluded with a Middle East distributor who wants to import Israeli goods to his country or region.

Such deals have been numerous, Arab and Israeli business sources say. They include the export of eggs, processed food or chemicals to the Gulf states, electronic equipment and medical technology to North Africa and agricultural technology to Iran.

Just about every country today receives Israeli products, regardless of their label — even countries such as Iraq, Syria and Lebanon.

Many products are marketed and exported through Europe, particularly London. In other cases, Jordan serves as a meeting point for Arab and Israeli businesspeople, and such exports are

often marketed via the Hashemite kingdom. Egypt is also a meeting place for Israelis and Arabs, but Cairo is not the highly regarded site that it was two years ago.

Trade between Arabs and Israelis is hard to gauge. Official trade with Egypt is expected to total about \$45 million this year. With Jordan, the figure is about \$10 million. Morocco buys several million dollars worth of exports a year from Israel, official statistics show.

But Israeli diplomats acknowledge that despite their quiet efforts they learn only about a small percentage of the business deals that are made with the Arab world. Some officials and diplomats estimate that trade with Morocco alone actually totals close to \$1 billion.

"We know maybe 20 percent of the picture," an Israeli diplomatic source serving in an Arab country says. "Most of the business we don't know about. If we would call people directly to ask they would hang up on us."

Israeli and Arab businessmen estimate the volume of trade and joint ventures at close to \$2 billion. Abdelnour points to Morocco as an example. The investors include Foad Filali, a son-in-law of King Hassan II.

"Morocco is a very interesting market," Abdelnour says. "There is lots of privatization. They are at the forefront of Arab capital markets. They are very active with Israelis and American firms."

The key to expanding business, Arab and Israeli businessmen say, is forming a joint venture. Here's how it works. An Israeli businessman has a product line. He transfers this to an Arab country, usually Jordan or Egypt. The Arab partner provides capital, cheap labor and powerful political connections. Such links are vital to ensuring that Arab authorities do not interfere.

The markets tend to be in Europe and the US. Israel has free trade agreements with both and with the addition of low labor costs, these products can undercut a lot of the competition. In such cases, the product has to be labeled "Made in Israel."

But an increasing number of Arab distributors are interested in marketing these products as well. For this, the products must be labeled as being manufactured in Jordan or Egypt.

The US has quietly been encouraging these efforts. Last month, US Undersecretary of Commerce Stuart Eizenstat visited Jordan and toured an Israeli-Jordanian factory that has been exporting products to the US under the free trade agreement. The Jordanians hope to win similar approval for duty-free products to be sent to the European Union.

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- Proposals should be sent to the Municipality by registered mail, in a sealed envelope with all details of the tender written on it, not later than Tuesday, 6 January 1998, to the Municipal Department of Tenders, 1 Safra Square, Jerusalem; or they can be delivered directly to the above address, 2nd fl., Room 181, on the above-mentioned date between 9:00 and 12:00 only.
- The Municipality is under no obligation to accept the lowest bid or any other one.

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The Holocaust according to Eva Braun

Among the scores of comments written in the visitors' book at the Israel Museum's exhibit, "Live and Die as Eva Braun," are these: "Beautiful exhibit! This is the last thing that ought to be censored."

"I am a survivor of Auschwitz and am ashamed to see what is presented as art in the Israel Museum."

"You were right in trying to see the subject in your own way! [Signed, by two women] who have gone through it and haven't forgotten anything."

"I found it obscene and deeply upsetting. I wish I had not been so open-minded to come to see it."

The full title of the exhibit is "Live and Die as Eva Braun - Hitler's Mistress, in the Berlin Bunker and Beyond - An Illustrated Proposal for a Virtual-Reality Scenario - Not to Be Realized." It was created by Israeli artist Roe Rosen, whose father is a Holocaust survivor.

The exhibit, which opened November 4 and closes January 30, has been criticized as pornographic, for "humanizing" Eva Braun, for asking viewers to identify with her, and for deeply offending the sensitivities of Israelis, especially Holocaust survivors. Some, like Jerusalem Deputy Mayor Shlomo Shaked, have called for it to be closed immediately, a demand the museum has rejected.

The exhibit's defenders insist that it approaches the horrors of the Holocaust from a fresh perspective and tries to convey these horrors in the most harrowing, intimate way.

Rosen said his intention was to treat the Holocaust "in a way that would be vivid, that would not arrive at a resolution and offer consolation and would not soften things up for the viewer." He said that because the paintings and text show Eva Braun and her world to be so grotesque, the viewer cannot possibly identify with her but will experience the exhibit as herself or himself.

"My meetings with Holocaust survivors at the exhibit were thrilling and moving," said Rosen. "Many just came up to me and shook my hand; some said they saw it as a memorialization of what they went through." As yet, he said, all the face-to-face reactions from Holocaust survivors have been encouraging. But he also expects to hear condemnations from survivors by the time the exhibit closes.

The text displayed in the exhibit presents the viewer with a minutely detailed fantasy of Eva Braun and Hitler in the bunker. ("He comes towards you with such warmth, his smile tired, his arms open to embrace you. Remember - you are Eva.") They copulate - urination fetish and all; Eva Braun is shot by Hitler; she experiences afterlife. In the end, she visualizes a tableau of Hitler and herself, dead in the bunker, on display at a wax museum in Milan. ("There's no question, you are being led to hell - but why?")

The paintings in the exhibit show pastoral German scenes and fairy tales alongside scenes of murder. Often the innocent and the demonic are woven together in the same painting. There are animals, angels and little German boys with erect penises. One painting depicts Rosen himself at age three with a Hitler mustache.

Education and Culture Minister Zevulun Hammer wrote to the museum asking it to show greater

While some viewers of the Eva Braun exhibit shake the artist's hand, others shake their heads in dismay, wondering how such a thing can be shown in Israel. Larry Derfner reports



The paintings in the exhibit show pastoral German scenes and fairy tales alongside scenes of murder. Below: The artist at age three with a Hitler mustache. (Courtesy of the Israel Museum)

"The exhibit actually shows the depravity of the culture that produced Hitler"

—James Snyder, Israel Museum director-general



"I'm all for artistic freedom, but the art itself has to stand the test [of worthiness]"

—Yoram Amit, Amcha director

consideration for the sensitivities of viewers, particularly Holocaust survivors. James Snyder, director-general of the museum, said that while there is a written introduction in the exhibit hall explaining that this is an artist's demanding but earnest attempt to deal with the Holocaust, a shorter and more clearly stated introduction will be added.

The exhibit actually shows the depravity of the culture that produced Hitler," Snyder said. He noted that while he was certainly aware that some viewers, especially Holocaust survivors, would find

the exhibit hard to take, most of the reactions, including those from survivors, had been positive. "We are not out to offend anybody. We're supposed to be about doing good," he said.

Like Rosen, Snyder said he was particularly irked by the attacks from politicians and others who had not even seen the exhibit. "This is a new school of art criticism," he commented sarcastically.

Yoram Amit, director of the Jerusalem branch of Amcha, an organization that provides aid and psychological counseling to Holocaust survivors and their families, said he went to see the exhibit this week so he would know what he was talking about when

reporters interview him.

Asked if he thought the exhibit gave a sympathetic portrayal of Eva Braun, Amit replied, "No, but that doesn't concern me. But I asked myself why an exhibit is being shown in Israel that asks people to encounter the Holocaust via Eva Braun. It seemed strange to me and, in a way, unseemly and wrong. Before we understand the murderers, we have to understand the murdered. I'm all for artistic freedom, but the art itself also has to stand the test [of worthiness]."

Amit said that after the controversy arose, "four or five" Holocaust survivors called Amcha urging the organization to protest against the exhibit. None of the callers had seen it, he said, but some might have seen the paintings and portions of the text published in Jerusalem's *Kol Ha'Ir*. "They said they didn't want to go near the exhibit. They felt hurt by it and didn't understand why it was being shown. They were angry," Amit said, adding, "I imagine that some survivors had positive reactions to it, but I haven't come across any."

In deciding to do "Live and Die as Eva Braun," which took three years to complete, Rosen said, "The crucial question for me was why a trauma that is so central to my identity, both personal and collective, is one that I've always avoided tackling as an artist?" He realized that "I had good reasons to maintain silence. One of them was that I was afraid to offend people."

But ultimately, he said, he decided it was "immoral" to be silent. He also believes that many depictions of the Holocaust which ask viewers to "identify with the victims" end up "allowing us to speak in the name of the victims," and that was immoral, too. Finally, he said, so much expression about the Holocaust is filled with clichés, which deaden people to the actuality of the Holocaust. This, too, he contends, is immoral.

Of all the comments written in the visitors' book, Rosen said the one that gave him the greatest lift was from a boy of 17 "who said that before he attended the exhibit, he could only think cynically about the Holocaust because of all the clichés attached to it. But this showed him there were also other ways to look at it."

The 34-year-old Rosen said his father had never talked to him about his experiences in the Holocaust, until he saw "Live and Die as Eva Braun."

"He thanked me for it," Rosen said. "But he also said he could fully understand how other survivors might have a very different reaction."

FERTILE

Continued from Page 15

"I think there's a tremendous interest in looking at the commercial and economic side of the equation and creating the kinds of conditions that would help support the peace process," Gadbow said.

American companies offer the region much in the way of infrastructure construction, tourism, transportation and product distribution systems, to name just a few areas, Gadbow said, adding, "The peace process will obviously have to move forward in order for many of these ideas to be implemented. That doesn't mean the thinking has to stop."

Nabius native Hani Masri is another American convinced of the viability and profitability of doing business in the region. At Doha, OPIC will announce that it is providing more than \$40m. in investment insurance for Masri's \$100m. fund for investing in businesses in the territories.

Masri, the head of Capital Investment Management Corporation of McLean, Virginia, was in Qatar last month and found businesspeople there interested in his venture. He expects to gain additional commitments at Doha. "We will look at each project in business terms," Masri said of the capital venture, to be headquartered in Ramallah. "If it is feasible, if it will make money, we will invest. It'll be run as a business, not a charity foundation."

Masri is convinced he can make money and help his homeland at the same time. But he knows how difficult that can be. Every time he visits and travels between Israel and the territories or Jordan, he wastes precious hours when Israel insists he must travel on Palestinian travel documents. He usually has to call on the American Embassy in Tel Aviv to bail him out.

"From a purely business perspective, it's very frustrating... I feel the Netanyahu government hasn't done enough to alleviate the fears of the businessman who wants to go in and invest. The political conditions are not right... People think no one in his right mind would invest in the territories. But I know the area. I am basically an optimist that things will brighten up. They can't get worse."

Sex and suicide with Hitler

By MEIR RONEN

Had he seen the show or read its extensive text, Education Minister Zevulun Hammer might have been less polite in asking the Israel Museum to reconsider continuing its current presentation of "Live and Die as Eva Braun," by Roe Rosen, a lecturer at Camera Obscura and Beit Berl, who employs doctored German children's book illustrations, some pornographic, to accompany what is little more than an ingenious short story. The entire presentation is encapsulated in an accompanying hard-cover artist's book, and is subtitled "An Illustrated Virtual-Reality Scenario. Not to be Realized."

But realized it is at the museum's Billy Rose Pavilion, where the virtual-reality client is invited to become Hitler's mistress, Eva Braun, in April 1945, awaiting the arrival of her aging lover, examining her feelings as she lies next to him; engaging in a form of oral sex; and eventually experiencing death by gunshot, while wondering if Hitler is really going to follow her into the beyond.

It's the texts to the show, carefully printed on black hangings meant to evoke columns of Nazi architecture, rather than the prints

This bizarre if imaginative presentation is obscene in more ways than one and leads the visitor to believe that it might have been devised in order to give offense... If so, the museum has allowed itself to be sadly manipulated.

of children and Beardsley-like animals and figures with rampant penises, that tell the story.

This bizarre if imaginative presentation is obscene in more ways than one and leads the visitor to believe that it might have been devised in order to give offense and be publicized in a wave of protest. If this is the case, the museum has allowed itself to be sadly manipulated. After all, Rosen and deputy museum director Igal Zalmora must have known what reactions it would provoke. One wonders why the museum's responsible officials did not consider taking the reaction into account.

Had this presentation been made in a private gallery, one might have been able to confine one's objections to Rosen's asking Jews to imagine themselves performing a sex act with Hitler. But its present venue is one of the most public in Israel and just one of many presentations in what purports to be the National Museum. Another current exhibition describes Jewish wedding customs in Herat. Among its visitors are orthodox Jews, Holocaust survivors and former world war servicemen.

The museum claims that "Live and Die as Eva Braun" is a way of dealing with the trauma of the Holocaust and points out that Rosen himself is a child of survivors. Rosen's own personal catharsis, if any, aside, it's difficult to see how this show enables anyone else to grapple with the trauma, not just of the Holocaust, but of the unprecedented carnage of the Second World War, effected by the will of a single man projected not only on his cohorts, but on an entire nation and many of its satraps.

The doctoring of other artists' illustrations is questionable too. The works pirated by Rosen are in many cases stolen from a world of innocence and lend a deliberately fey, even fairylike atmosphere to the theme that is all the more shocking for having the illustrations pirated. World War II artist, the creator of *Max and Moritz*, did turn in his grave on finding his characters pressed-ganged into such an enterprise?

The weakest objections to this show voiced so far are those that claim that it humanizes Adolf and Eva. But all too human they were, just as Streicher, Kaltenbrunner, Eichmann, Goebbels et al were also human. That is the most frightening thing of all about inhumanity; it has always been perpetrated by humans. Eva's real story is an all too human one, represented at the museum by a travesty, even though Rosen, in his impeccably aesthetic presentation, succeeds in getting one to think about it.

I have for decades objected to the inclusion of Holocaust kitsch in the collection of Yad Vashem, where the only relevant and honest items displayed are documentary sketches made on the spot by eyewitnesses. For several decades indifferent painters and second-rate sculptors have tried to imitate sentimentality and sensationalism in connection with the Holocaust. Even abstract expressionism was employed. Happily, this trend has all but vanished.

Rosen's effort is undeniably a cut above such kitsch. A great deal of thought and professional technique has been put into it. But like much Holocaust painting, it trivializes the subject. The Nazis did indeed employ art, in a form of heroic socialist realism, to make their ideology palatable. The reality of Nazi art is still more powerful than any art interpretation of it. Real art always transcends its subject matter.

Whatever the case, Rosen's cleverly designed Artists Book published in conjunction with the show renders its public exhibition of virtual reality virtually unnecessary. What's in a book is between author and private reader, who can choose to form his own opinion about it, free of any censorship, I'm against censorship but also against lapses of taste and the giving of needless offense.

If I were director of the Israel Museum, I'd have passed on this one. Yet the visitor's book to this exhibition shows that together with those profoundly offended or upset by the presentation, there are many who found the jolt it gave them genuinely thought-provoking.

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MIDDLE ISRAEL



By AMOTZ ASA-EL

'You can change a system,' Winston Churchill once said. "But you can't change a people." Indeed, the more it seems to stay the same.

In 1992, when Yitzhak Rabin beat Shimon Peres in our first primary election for any party's leadership, the conventional wisdom was that after 18 years of unfettered rivalry, the former had once and for all done away with his old nemesis. Ultimately, however, Rabin continued to find his Siamese twin along side him: on the White House lawn during the signing of the Oslo Accords, in Stockholm while receiving the Nobel Peace Prize, and even during those last, heart-breaking moments of his life on the steps of Tel Aviv's City Hall.

The same thing happened across the political divide when David Levy, despite his dramatic defeat by Binyamin Netanyahu, emerged as his second in command.

In 1996, following our first direct election of a prime minister, the conventional wisdom was that the new system had all but eradicated Israel's time-honored legacy of coalition horse-trading. Gone — so we all hoped — would also be the self-inflicted besmirching, bickering and arm-twisting that accompa-

nied the work of almost every Israeli cabinet since the twilight of David Ben-Gurion's reign in the early 1960s.

In reality, however, Netanyahu ended up assembling a strikingly familiar coalition-based cabinet, where a host of unholy bedfellows received the same old harlot's pay which figured prominently in the elaborate propaganda that accompanied the campaign for direct election.

Meanwhile, legislators who were elected through party primaries have so far failed to behave like locally minded messengers of their respective constituencies. Instead, theirs remains an agenda dominated by the broad issues of peace and security, matters on which they are usually no better equipped to pass judgment than you or I.

Similarly, the Likud's party gatherings also remained — despite the ostensibly new politics heralded by the age of direct election — the same old orgies of conceit, deceit, power-grabbing and back-stabbing which they have been throughout the post-Menachem Begin era.

And yet this week's chilling scenes of naked machismo, ideological limbo and institutional degeneration at the ruling party's convention present a severe escalation in our already intolerably deformed public affairs.

POLITICS, TO be sure, isn't necessarily — or even ideally — a philosophical debate club. Power and sociology naturally play roles of their own, alongside ideology. A

politician who is insufficiently power hungry will seldom make it to the top. And a durable, effective constituency is likely to be founded on such common denominators as income, profession, ethnicity or locality.

Europe's early-modern parties pitted the traditionalism of provincial landowners and clergymen against the liberalism of bourgeois bankers, industrialists and professionals. Later, as the Industrial Revolution created new social problems, the low-wage earners generated their own organizations. These divisions preceded the Right, Left and Center which have been dominating Western politics for the past half century.

In Israel, the Right used to resemble its European and American counterparts. Most industrialists belonged to the Progressive Party, which later became the Liberal Party, and waved the banner of free enterprise at the height of Israel's socialist era. On the Right's other end, the Herut party — which also had its share of wealthy industrialists such as the late Ya'acov Meridor — represented an ideological hard core which basked in Irgun nostalgia, yearned for a territorialist grand Israel, and offered a traditionalist alternative to the Left's universalism.

However, in a typically Israeli twist of events, this conservative cocktail of capitalists and nationalists was later heavily peppered with populists. Gradually, big business abandoned the Right — which ostensibly looked after its interests

but in reality pandered to the likes of David Levy — and switched to Labor, which ostensibly shielded the working classes but in reality represented the middle classes.

Meanwhile, the Likud repeatedly caught a socially aloof Labor off guard, first by co-opting young non-Ashkenazi talents who had been rejected by Labor's elitist establishment, then by allowing broad party forums rather than small committees, to elect its parliamentary candidates.

And so, for the 15 years that followed its rise to power in 1977, the Likud efficiently offered Israel's disenfranchised political haven they had craved during decades of Labor domination.

Since then, however, the Likud's caucus-based elections have degenerated into a celebration of corruption. The mob which constituted the Likud's convention this week was no longer that finely measured combination of workers, ideologues and business leaders which Menachem Begin painstakingly assembled during his three decades as leader of the opposition. Rather, it was dominated by anonymous, hand-picked small-business owners who were promised political booty in return for obedient voting according to Avigdor "Rasputin" Lieberman's dictates.

That formula, rather than correspond with a Rightist, Leftist or Centrist party base, eerily resembles the way Fascist parties wrested power from the people and handed it over to hoodlums.

If, to paraphrase Yitzhak Shamir,

the sea is the same sea and the Arabs are the same Arabs, then the Likud's hacks are the same heckling, spitting, fist-waving, chair-throwing, microphone-grabbing riffraff we have come to know so well over the years.

Surely, it would be absurd to search for the likes of John Locke, Thomas Jefferson, Ze'ev Jabotinsky or Berl Katsnelson in that assembly of thugs, whose supreme cultural experience is the joining of throats in a staccato "Bibi, Bibi" ovation, and whose ultimate *cassus belli* is some redundant, taxpayer-funded job in a god-forsaken municipality, state company, or religious council. But even on that planet of apes it wouldn't be too much — or so we used to think — to expect some healthy political survival instinct. Instead, our ruling party's hard core has now demonstrated that its motto is "What's in it for me?"

This week's events echo the same unabashed materialism and ideological degeneration Likudniks like to associate with Laborites. Yet the delegates who booed Limor Livnat's admirable cry in the wilderness — to focus on the greater-Israel tenets which are theoretically dear to them — will ultimately realize how right she was. Unfortunately for them, that realization will come after an ideologically charged, socially cohesive and emotionally enthusiastic Shas will have sunk its teeth even deeper into the Likud's dangling flesh and depleted bones, come the next elections.

Dry Bones



SHABBAT SHALOM

Seeing beyond blind faith



Parashat Vayechi

By SHLOMO RISKIN

"Lay not your hand upon the dead, neither do anything to him..." (Gen. 22:12)

Two years have passed since the assassination of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin by a student who called himself religious. What can we learn — and has Israel learned — from the crime?

Every positive cultural expression can also be manifested in a negative fashion. Indeed, the greater the power for good, the greater the possibility for evil. The commitment to an ideal — or a religious philosophy — can produce a Mother Teresa or an Adolf Hitler, depending on how the ideal is defined.

Abraham was the first proponent of ethical monotheism, one of the greatest forces for good the world has ever known. Concepts of justice, compassion, unity and peace all emanate from the doctrine of a God of consummate compassion and loving-kindness. But it must be remembered that Abraham emerged from a world view of paganism that included the sacrifice of one's children to a blood-thirsty idol.

Within the madness of Moloch-worship lurked a frightening truth: if someone is willing to do something absolutely, there can be no holding back. Molochism could be identified as the philosophy behind all forms of absolutism that do not shy away from death in the name of the deity, such as Jim Jones and David Koresh.

Abraham represents the transition from the paganism of Moloch to the monotheism of the One God whose compassion would never ask for such a twisted form of sacrifice. But inherent in the nature of the God-system Abraham discovered was a binding problem: did not ethical monotheism also demand total commitment? Might not the Abrahamic God also require the sacrifice of a child? As one of the most important medieval commentators, Joseph Ibn Kaspi, understands it, this new lesson is precisely the message of the Akeida.

Abraham's faith was faced with a paradox. Most likely, the Patriarch thought that his love for God and his love for Isaac were mutually exclusive, that "an absolutist" God demands exclusive loyalty. And if the Akeida — the Binding of Isaac — represents the birth of Judaism, it teaches that our faith is based on a youth "saved" from being sacrificed, as opposed to any other religion which claims that sacrifice is a necessary part of its matrix. The key to Judaism is the teaching that Isaac need not actually be sacrificed to validate his commitment.

Our God, a God of love, is inclusive; the more loved one feels, the greater becomes one's capacity

to love. It is ultimately love for God which validates love for spouse, love for children, love for nation and love for the world. Hence, at least as Rashi understands it, God commands Abraham to take his son and merely "bring him up" to Mount Moriah to pray. Abraham misunderstands, and perhaps the Almighty purposely wanted Abraham to misunderstand, so that the Almighty could then present the countering command, to teach all subsequent generations that He deplores the death of innocent people.

Amazingly, the struggle between Molochism and monotheism still exists. There is probably no better tool than religious worship to make us more compassionate and sensitive to the needs of the human family, but countless millions have been killed in wars waged by people desperate to show how great is their love for God.

Without a quiver of guilt, the suicide bombers of Hamas kill innocent people, convinced that this is what Allah wants from them.

The absolutism of any fanatic is idealism gone awry. Is not Yigal Amir an example of an idealistic person twisted by the blind conviction that he alone possessed Truth?

The binding of Isaac teaches us that God doesn't want us to destroy life. God wants us to preserve life. Our Torah is "paths of pleasantness whose roads lead to peace." Our God wishes an end to destruction, and a period when "nation will not lift up sword against nation and humanity will not learn war anymore."

Israel has experienced six wars in its barely five decades. Israeli politics has been marked by extremist rhetoric, as demonstrators called Menachem Begin a murderer during the Lebanon War and Yitzhak Rabin a traitor during the Oslo agreements. The Right and the Left have set themselves up as the arbiters of absolute truth, totally delegitimizing the other and drowning out dialogue. Israel has behaved much like a precocious adolescent, seeing issues in blacks and whites, casting aside consensus and compromise for the sake of polarization.

The binding took place on the spot of the Temple Mount, the locus from where Jewish law would emanate to all the world. And the Talmud insists that Jewish law must be adjudicated not in absolutism, let-the-law-pierce-through-the-mountain-and-the-sparks-fall-where-they-may manner, but through mediation and arbitration (B.T. Sanhedrin 6).

After the assassination of John F. Kennedy, one of the great musicians of the era said: "We think we will never smile again. We will smile, and we'll even laugh. But we'll never be young again." I would like to believe that post-assassination Israel, a more mature and unified nation has emerged from the trauma of tragedy — a nation that desires peace with the Palestinians and is also committed to the settlements, a nation which holds on to the olive branch but demands security guarantees. Such a policy will, at the very least, reflect a consensus within Israel — for there can never be peace without unless there is first peace within.

The Binding of Isaac taught the true message of Judaism to the world: a message of life over death, understanding over ignorance, a unified peace rather than an absolutist truth.

A VIEW FROM NOV



By MOSHE KOHN

The Arabs' hundred-year war against the Jews in Eretz Yisrael established a new pattern: the defeated aggressor sues to be compensated for his losses, and the world recognizes his right to sue and to be compensated.

A fresh reminder of this is the intention of an Egyptian lawyer, Nabil Helmi, professor of law at Zagazig University, to sue Israel for the repayment of what he claims is a 34-century-old debt the Jewish people owe Egypt.

I hope that this time, too, the courts and the rest of the world recognize the validity of the suit, giving us an opportunity to respond.

The alleged debt is the gold and silver the Egyptians loaned our enslaved ancestors shortly before they demanded that they leave the country.

This is the story, as related in Cairo's semi-official, English-language *Al-Ahram Weekly* (AAW) of the week of October 30-November 5.

Basing himself on the Torah, Helmi notes that the ancient

Egyptians took a liking to their Jewish slaves and granted their request for the loan of their (the Egyptians') gold and silver objects and clothes (Exodus 12:35-36).

This was in keeping with God's earlier promise and instructions to Moses (Exodus 3:21-22 and 11:2-3) and His promise to Patriarch Abraham (Genesis 15:14).

Helmi said the borrowed objects "appear never to have been returned," and that "the government of the modern Hebrew state should make good the debt — plus accumulated interest."

He said the cited passages from the Torah "provide ample proof of the robbery which the ancient Israelites committed, the biggest robbery in history."

With interest compounded annually at 5%, Helmi estimated, today's value of our debt to Egypt is nine million tons of gold. The Torah does not state the value of the Jews' borrowings, and Helmi did not explain how he arrived at that figure.

He said the statute of limitations should not apply here, because "this is a historical case, and Egyptian rights cannot be forfeited."

According to AAW, the idea of suing "was the brainchild of the Egyptian community in Switzerland," in reaction to Israel's laying claim to the Holocaust victims' unclaimed money and other assets lying in

Swiss banks.

Helmi said they had not yet decided whether to file the suit in Egypt or Switzerland. "The case needs additional preparation," he said.

AAW reports that legal experts "are confident that Helmi's chances are nil," and that he himself "is aware that the lawsuit, in all probability, will be thrown out of court. But he believes the case has more than just symbolic value."

He said: "The Israelis appeal to the Old Testament in laying claim to the ownership of Palestine, describing it as 'the Promised Land.' So we are appealing to the same source to prove our long-lost rights. If the court quashes our lawsuit on the grounds that verses in the Bible cannot serve as legal documents, then the same principle should apply to the question of the Promised Land."

AS I SAID, I hope the suit goes to court, whether in Egypt, Switzerland, or at the International Court of Justice in the Hague.

We will then be able to respond as our advocate responded when the Egyptians similarly sued our ancestors before Alexander the Great in 331 BCE, during his visit to Eretz Yisrael on his path of world conquest. At the same time, a delegation of "Palestinian expatriates," the Girgashites, and a pan-Arab delegation, the Ishmaelites, also came to Alexander to demand

justice. All based their claims on the Torah.

That advocate was one Gevitha ben Pessisa, a humble hunchback, who volunteered for the task when no one else was ready to do so. After refuting the claims of the Girgashites and the Ishmaelites, with Alexander ruling for the Jews in both cases, Gevitha turned to the Egyptians' claim.

He conceded the justice of their claim, with one stipulation: In light of Exodus 12:40, which states that the Jews served the Egyptians as slaves for 430 years, let them calculate how much they owe the Jews for the free labor of 600,000 able-bodied males, and let us see how the two debts balance out.

The Egyptians agreed, calculated, and found that at the going rate of one dinar a day, Egypt would be bankrupt upon payment of the first 100 years' wages. And they withdrew their suit.

Since Helmi, too, is basing his claim on the Torah, let him calculate how much Egypt, in turn, owes the Jews for 430 years of the labor of 600,000 slaves plus compound interest at an annual 5%.

Incidentally, Helmi has overlooked the fact that shortly after that borrowing, the Egyptians demanded that the Jews leave the country without delay, forgetting to ask for the return of the loan (Exodus 12:30-33).

(Thanks to Dr. Joseph Lerner

of Jerusalem, codirector of IMRA/Independent Media Review & Analysis, for the *Al-Ahram Weekly* story. The Alexander/Gevitha legend appears in several variations in Megillat Taanit, chapter 3, Sanhedrin 91a, Bereshit Rabba 61:7, Yerushalmi Shevi'it 6:1.)

IT IS interesting to note the Koran's treatment of the Exodus story.

Allah tells Mohammed: "We afflicted Pharaoh's people with death and famine so they might take heed. When good things came their way, they said: 'It is our due,' but when evil befell them they ascribed it to Moses and his people.... We plagued them with floods and locusts, with lice and frogs and blood: clear miracles, yet they scorned them all, for they are a wicked nation.... We took their vengeance on them and drowned them in the sea, for they denied Our signs and gave no heed to them.... And We destroyed the edifices and the towers of Pharaoh and his people..." (The Koran, Sura 7, "The Heights," Dawood translation, Penguin 1990).

As for the Promised Land, the Koran relates: "We settled the Israelites in a blessed land.... Then We said to the Israelites: 'Dwell in this land....' (Suras 10 and 18).

E-mail comments to: moshe@post.co.il. Please include home address.

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Shabbat Shalom

The word from Washington

US Undersecretary of State for Economic Affairs Stuart Eizenstat persists in promoting the Doha conference as a business opportunity, best left unlinked to the peace process or other political developments. Of those states which are boycotting for political reasons, he says bluntly: It's their loss.

What do you forecast for the upcoming Doha economic conference, in light of the difficulties in the peace process - particularly the decision by last year's host, Egypt, not to attend?

Obviously, this has not been an easy year to put the conference together because of the difficulties in the peace process. But what we've stressed is that this is not a reward to any country. It's an opportunity to try to enhance trade opportunities in a region that only does 7 percent of all its trading amongst its members, one of the lowest percentages of anywhere in the world.

Obviously, the peace process is not where we want it to be, but more than 750 businesspeople and 400 officials from 35 countries will attend. [They] are going to benefit from a unique opportunity of public-private sector networking and looking at investment opportunities in this part of the world.

Those that don't attend will suffer the loss by indicating that they're falling back into old modes of thinking in terms of tying economic issues to political issues.

You were just in the region. What messages did you take back

Those who don't attend Doha will suffer the loss, US Undersecretary of State for Economic Affairs Stuart Eizenstat tells Hillel Kuttler

from the Arab countries on the difficulties they saw in holding the conference in this political context?

The Jordanians with whom I met were gung-ho to go forward, and they are.

The Egyptians were already at that point of tying it to progress in the peace process. And I think with the lack of progress over the last several weeks, it fit into what they were saying in the region. And the same with the Palestinians. So none of this is a surprise, but we're obviously disappointed by Egypt's decision not to attend.

Two of the three previous hosts of the summit, Morocco and Egypt, will not be there. What kind of message does that send?

They, obviously, intended to send a message of displeasure with the status of the peace process. That's what they've said publicly, and that's what they were telling us privately. We've argued very strenuously that this is not the way to show their displeasure, but they told us they feel they have very few instruments.

This is not helpful to their own economies, to their own image in terms of investment opportunities,

their own willingness to put aside the politics of the past. But it does reflect a very profound concern with the policy of the Israeli government as they see it.

I also think that Israel has been perhaps the chief beneficiary, economically, of the peace process. The Arab boycott has been largely eviscerated. Israel is open to the world, and the world to Israel's products as never before... and as Israel integrates more with the region, those opportunities will only expand.

This does indicate that there is a relationship between the peace process and the economic policies, and they can't be divorced... And if the peace process stalls, it is to everyone's disadvantage, including Israel's, economically as well as politically.

What message will you and secretaries Albright and Daley be projecting to promote the American business agenda with the Middle East?

First, ... in their own internal economic policies, it is important that they privatize their economies, that they allow more open investment and trade, ... that they develop a commercial infrastructure, which fosters private

sector investment and trade, like intellectual property rights protections.

Second, that we go after and attack the structural barriers to trade in the region, which have nothing to do with the peace process or with Arab-Israel trade.

The grand regional projects highlighted at the Amman summit, with visions of integrating economies - what has happened to them?

We have worked very hard on that. That's one of the things I did when I was in Israel and Jordan. I talked with [Infrastructure] Minister [Ariel] Sharon when I was there. I've talked with him again just within the past few weeks. We've got the Akaba-Eilat airport that's had its first flights, which is very positive. We have pushed very hard for concrete Jordan Rift Valley projects.

We are also trying to push things for the Palestinians. We are trying to push a development fund for OPIC [Overseas Private Investment Corporation] there. We're trying to push for a Gaza industrial, duty-free estate which would employ 20,000 Palestinians.

We're trying to do the same thing in Jordan, at Irbid.

We're also pressing hard on the Egypt-Israel so-called peace [gas] pipeline. And while that has certainly slowed, it's by no means over. And Minister Sharon

deserves a lot of credit for cutting a lot of red tape on the Israeli side and moving things very nicely there, and now we need to get more movement on the Egyptian side.

DOHA

Continued from Page 15

The key, Arab and Israeli businesspeople say, is discretion. The joint ventures in Jordan have never been publicized in the kingdom. Eizenstat's visit to Jordan was covered by the media, but where he toured was not publicized.

"We are not ready for this kind of publicity," a Jordanian investor in the project says. "Despite the obvious benefits to the Jordanian economy, we are always concerned that one person might throw a bomb at the factory and ruin everything."

So what significance would the economic conference in Qatar have?

Arab and Israeli businesspeople call it an important forum. Its most important role would be to legitimize Israeli-Arab partnerships. Arab businesspeople predict that their colleagues will flock to Doha even if their governments boycott the conference.

Who would probably not show up in Doha? Abdelnour says he does not expect more than a handful of businesspeople from Lebanon and that probably nobody will attend from Syria. Both countries, he says, have chosen to boycott Israel even at the expense of hurting their economies.

For example, he says, despite the lifting of the US travel ban on Lebanon, Beirut has not attracted any major American investment.

"There are some Lebanese who want to make money but every time that it is related to Jews, they freak out," Abdelnour says.

Who would be expected to show up in Doha? Abdelnour and other Arab investors say that despite Egypt's official boycott, the conference will likely be attended by leading Egyptian businesspeople, possibly even President Hosni Mubarak's son.

The gathering is also expected to be flooded by businesspeople from the Gulf, from such countries as Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain, as well as some leading Saudi industrialists.

Israeli officials agree with these assessments. They say business relations are expanding with several Gulf countries, particularly Qatar.

In addition to importing Israeli goods, Qatar is considering joint projects with Israel in infrastructure and energy development.

"Kuwait and Bahrain are definitely the most open and Westernized," Abdelnour says. "You will see them as well as people from all over the Gulf. You will see Saudis. I saw them at previous conferences and the numbers keep increasing."

"You're going to see the international players. You're going to see people who are so big they don't give a damn about their governments. They just want to make a buck. The small local players stay at home."

Indeed, Israeli businesspeople and some diplomats agree that the only damper on growing trade with the Arab world is government bureaucracy. They say the Industry and Trade Ministry has been slow to lift restrictions that could dramatically boost ties with the Arab world.

For example, in June, the ministry refused a plea from the Federation of Chambers of Commerce to lift a ban on imports from Gulf states. Officials explained that such a move would require reciprocity while Israeli businesspeople argued that the Arab countries may quietly follow suit once a precedent was set.

Businesspeople blame government bureaucracy for the dithering of a huge oil deal that was offered to Israel. Again, Israeli officials demanded immediate reciprocity while the Arab businesspeople insisted that this could take place only afterwards.

Security considerations have been perhaps an even greater barrier to trade with Arab industrialists.

More than a few Arab businesspeople have complained of being so badly treated at Ben-Gurion Airport and at other crossing points that they decided that Israel was not worthy of their money. Not only did they leave Israel without signing a contract, but some left hurt, angry and determined never to return.

Take the Gulf prince who arrived during the past year ready to negotiate a billion-dollar worth of arms deals. He was delayed at the airport for more than two hours of interrogation, despite a waiting government escort and recommendation from a diplomat.

After pleading in vain with security officers by explaining he was a VIP, the prince gave up and took the next plane out of Israel.

"The interest is there," an Arab investor says. "The potential is there. But I've seen more than once where Israeli shortsightedness and arrogance have ruined what could have been a wonderful deal. With all of your security problems, if you can't distinguish between a terrorist and a prominent businessman, then you're going to lose business."

GRAPEVINE

BY GREER FAY CASHMAN



A taste of Canada: Dick Bellis-Skil Q'was performs a traditional Haida Indian dance at Tel Aviv mayor Ronni Milo and Canadian ambassador David Berger look on. (Michael Feidlin)

Canadians carve out their territory

Although he usually takes a year to carve a totem pole, Canadian Haida Indian Dick Bellis-Skil Q'was took a record four months to carve the opening of the "Taste of Canada" exhibition at the Tel Aviv Sheraton. Carved from a west Canadian 3,000-year-old red cedar tree which was cut down five years ago, the totem pole includes a number of symbols. At the bottom is a combined figure of a grizzly bear and a killer whale, the creatures most feared by the Haida people. Haida custom designates that a woman wash out the evil spirit from the totem pole each time it is put up in a new location.

The honor on this occasion fell to Wendy Gerl, the hotel's public relations manager. Bellis then performed an Indian ceremonial dance, after which the pole was hoisted into place by Tel Aviv mayor Ronni Milo, Canadian ambassador David Berger, Sheraton general manager Tom Haggerty, and Ted Reader, executive chef for President's Choice, the private label brand of food products from Canada sold in the Greenberg chain of supermarkets.

The ceremony will have to be repeated when the totem pole is relocated in David Azrieli's newest shopping mall. The entrepreneurial architect who divides his time between Canada and Israel wants to put a more visible Canadian stamp on his next Israeli venture.

PARTICIPANTS in the Foreign Ministry's two-week seminar on "Changes in Diplomacy Towards the 21st Century," young diplomats from 30 countries, visited Yitzhak Rabin's grave as part of their program. What was not included was a wreath-laying ceremony. But the junior diplomats were so keen to pay tribute to the late prime minister that they purchased their own wreath and delegated Ada de Asis Hernandez of the Dominican Republic and Eduardo Enrique Reina of Honduras to do the honors.

In a lighter vein, the visitors had a great deal of fun at a folklore evening at Ma'aleh Hahamisha, where they performed their own native songs and dances. Tashi Tsering, a second-generation diplomat whose father is the foreign minister of Bhutan, wore his national costume and waded that he could get into the Guinness Book of Records for wearing the garment with the most pockets. But then again, so could everyone else from Bhutan. The most meaningful performance was that given by Michelle Joanne Javorcikova of Slovakia and Pavel Kafka of the Czech Republic. Considering that they represent the two partitions of what was once one country, their (bipartite) folkdance was a charming example of true coexistence.

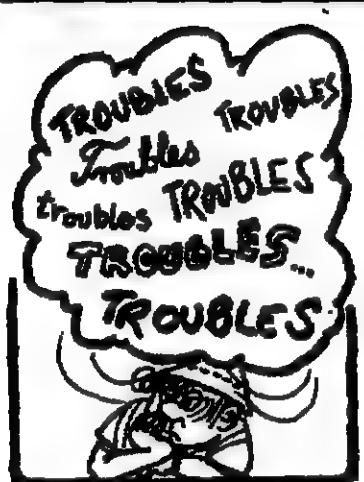
IT'S amazing in how diverse a social circle former prime minister Zehava Ben and Assaf Rosen (Shimon Peres) anchored Chaim Yavin, who confessed to not having been a particularly diligent student when he studied humanities, education and communication some 40 years ago. Also present was MK Naomi Chazan, an expert in African studies. One of HU's more impressive recent graduates is Nir Barak, who, with two fellow alumni, set up BRM, a high-tech company which developed the first antivirus solution for computers when they were still students. Naturally, they scored the Hebrew University as their first customer. Now a multimillion-dollar company with highly profitable subsidiaries, BRM is interested in giving something back to the university. It also draws on HU resources for its manpower.

ROMANTIC comedies appear to be in vogue. Currently negotiating for lead roles in two productions in this genre are actor/producer/director Kevin Costner, who's angling for *Message in a Bottle* based on a novel about a search for true love; and Demi Moore, who hopes to star in *Human Seeking Same*, an interracial romantic comedy.



Zehava Ben and Assaf Rosen (Shimon Peres)

SRULIK



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

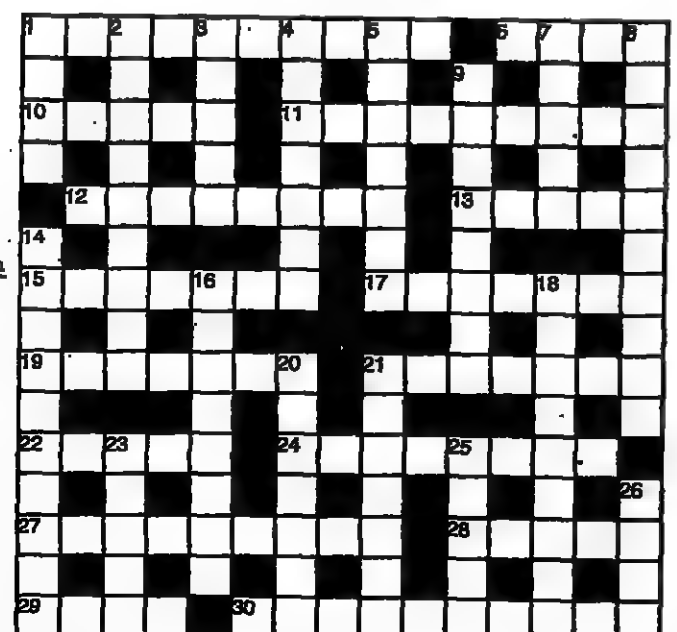
ACROSS

- 1 Perturb the workers, but conclude a deal (5,5)
- 6 Pert female comes with insolence (4)
- 10 Seat one gets into daily (5)
- 11 French wine enters USA to be drunk (9)
- 12 Submitted to the Spanish Guard (8)
- 13 Magic spell is about to do damage (5)
- 15 Admit objective is a bad mistake (3,4)
- 17 Enticingly shows daughter to old tribesmen (7)
- 19 Always going express (3-4)
- 21 Whip firm into sudden spurt (7)
- 22 The snow-line? (5)
- 24 No special item selected from many thin garments (8)

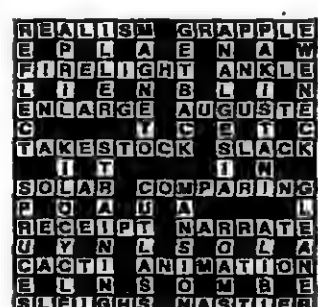
- 27 As a professional he may be painfully manipulative (9)
- 28 Pronouns complete (5)
- 29 Loophole in strong regulation (4)
- 30 Lack of generosity gave sharp pain to one head (10)

DOWN

- 1 Big bag of plunder (4)
- 2 Among men, a remarkable Greek leader (9)
- 3 Regret having taken head off bird (5)
- 4 Club found in weapon store (7)



SOLUTIONS



Yesterday's Quick Solution
ACROSS: 1 Rounder, 5 Bowls, 8 Grant, 9 Starred, 10 Talkative, 12 Nil, 13 Sedate, 14 Combed, 17 Tie, 18 Swindled, 20 Lovers, 21 Stoop, 22 Risen, 24 Everest.
DOWN: 1 Right, 2 One, 3 Defiant, 4 Rustic, 5 Brava, 6 Unstable, 7 Saddled, 11 Lullabies, 13 Settler, 15 Overman, 16 Thawed, 18 Stern, 19 Depot, 20 Rex.

QUICK CROSSWORD

- ACROSS: 1 Flatfish (5)
- 4 Appellations (5)
- 8 Happen (5)
- 9 Reasonable (7)
- 10 Obtain (7)
- 11 Large aquatic bird (4)
- 12 Manage (3)
- 14 Cowshed (4)
- 15 Dutch cheese (4)
- 16 Allow (3)
- 21 Very pale (4)
- 23 Sanction (7)
- 25 Inquisitive (7)
- 26 Expunge (5)
- 27 Faithful (5)
- 28 Agree (8)

- DOWN: 1 On time (5)
- 2 Small fish (7)
- 3 Roundabout (8)
- 4 Near (4)
- 5 Parrot (5)
- 6 Soundless (5)
- 7 Older (5)
- 13 Unnecessary (8)
- 14 Land area (7)
- 17 Rogue (6)
- 19 Taut (5)
- 20 Choose (5)
- 22 Hasten (5)
- 24 Nimblepomp (4)

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TECHNICAL WRITING (evening session)	Sun., Tue., Thur., 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Oct. 30	Sun., Tue., Thur., 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Dec. 14
WEB PUBLISHING	Wednesdays 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Nov. 19	Wednesdays 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Nov. 19
CNE Express Track (7 courses)	Mon. & Wed. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Nov. 10	Tue. & Thur. 12:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Nov. 11
CNE Regular Track (7 courses)	Mon. & Wed. 8 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Nov. 10	Mon. & Wed. 8 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Nov. 12
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WINDOWS NT MCSB Regular Track (6 courses)	Tue. & Thur. 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Jan. 6	Mon. & Wed. 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Nov. 10
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VISUAL BASIC	Mon. 12 noon - 3 p.m.	Nov. 19	Wed. 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Nov. 19
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Jerusalem	Tue., Nov. 11 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Thur., Nov. 13 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Thur., Nov. 13 1-5 p.m.	Tue., Nov. 11 5-9 p.m.	Tue., Nov. 11 1-5 p.m.	Fri., Nov. 14 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Sun., Nov. 16 5-9 p.m.

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We are currently looking for someone to join the Tel Aviv office as a data gatherer and business researcher. This role could prove to be the platform for an exciting career within Bloomberg. You will be responsible for all aspects of information gathering. This will range from the timely reporting of dividend and earnings information by companies in your territories to collecting current and historical Fixed Income, Equity and Money Market data to identifying new companies and markets.

This is a great opportunity to join Bloomberg but in return we are looking for some serious commitment. It is envisaged that you will be in this role for a minimum of 18 months so that you can gain a real understanding of your field. You must be fluent (both written and spoken) in Hebrew and English and preferably a graduate, or have experience in the financial markets. At the same time, although your natural flair will be apparent to us, you will have excellent administration skills and a very keen eye for details and be PC literate.

We're not looking for an average person but then again, we're not an average company.

Please send your C.V. quoting the reference JP/DN1 to:
Catherine Henderson,
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fax to:
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- Proficiency in computers and spread sheets
- 5 years' experience
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Only suitable candidates will be contacted

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DWELLINGS
Jerusalem Area

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DWELLINGS
Tel Aviv

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WHERE TO GO

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ARTGUIDE

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ART GUIDE

HAIFA

THE REUBEN AND EDITH HECHT MUSEUM, (Haifa University), Permanent exhibition: The People of Israel in Eretz Yisrael - Phonographs on the Northern Coast of Israel in the Biblical Period - Illness and Healing in Ancient Times - Impressionism and the Jewish School of Paris. Open Sun., Mon., Wed., Thur. 10-4; Tue. 10-7; Fri. 10-1. Sat. 10-2. ADMISSION FREE.

Jerusalem

Museums
OLD YISHUV COURT MUSEUM, Life in the Jewish community in the Old city, mid-19th century - World War II. 6 Or Hashana, Jewish Quarter, Old City. Sun-Thur. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

TEL AVIV

TEL AVIV MUSEUM OF ART, Yehiel Shalem - Retrospective, Valerio Adam: Paintings, The Helene and Zygfrid Wolach Collection of Modern Sculptures, Collections HELEN RUBINSTEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART, Surroundings, group exhibition by British artists on personal and collective identity. Hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tue., 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Fri., 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Meyerhoff Art Education Center, Tel. 6918155-8.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

GENERAL ASSISTANCE
EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

Friday, November 14
Jerusalem: Kupat Holim Clalit Zevulun, 3 Avigdoni, 670-6660; Shufat, Shufat Road, 581-0108; Dar Aldeira, Herod's Gate, 628-2058.
Tel Aviv: Alva, 165 Ditzengoff, 522-4717; Bnei, 28 King George, 528-3731; Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Dorn, 6 Geula, Ra'anana, 771-6084.
Netanya: Neot Shaked, Ezorim Commercial Center, 835-2484.
Haifa: Carmel, 6 Eliahu Hanavi, 867-5175.
Kiryat area: Kupat Holim Clalit Zevulun, 192 Derech Akko, Kiryat Bialik, 878-7818.
Herzliya: Clalit Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6 Maski (near Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 955-8472, 955-8407. Open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Upper Nazareth: Clalit Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 657-0468. Open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturday, November 15
Jerusalem: (day) Jaffa Gate, 628-3898; (evening) Superpharm, 3 Hahaleladut, 624-6914; (day and evening) Balsam, Salah e-Din, 627-2315; Shufat, Shufat Road, 581-0108; Dar Aldeira, Herod's Gate, 628-2058. Tel Aviv: Grusso, 27 Sheinfeld, 528-4791; Superpharm Gimmel, 1 Ahikar, Ramat Aviv Gimmel, 641-7117. Tel. midnight: Superpharm Ramat Aviv, 40 Einsteint, Ramat Aviv, 641-3730; Superpharm London Minisore, 4 Shaul Hamelech, 696-0115.
Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: (day) Haragil, 47 Rothschild, Kfar Sava, 767-0908; (evening) Hasharon, 55 Derech Ramatayim, Had Hasharon, 740-6781.
Netanya: Hanassi, 36 Weizmann, 882-3635.
Haifa: Hanassi, 33 Hanassi, 853-3312.
Kiryat area: Kupat Holim Clalit Zevulun, 192 Derech Akko, Kiryat Bialik, 878-7818.
Herzliya: Clalit Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6 Maski (near Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 955-8472, 955-8407. Open 10 a.m. to midnight.

DUTY HOSPITALS
Friday, November 14
Jerusalem: Hadassah Mt. Scopus (internal, obstetrics); Shaare Zedek (surgery, orthopedics, obstetrics, pediatrics); Hadassah Ein Kerem (pediatrics); Bnei Haim (ENT). Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (internal, surgery). Netanya: Laniado.

Saturday, November 15
Jerusalem: Bnei Haim (internal, ENT); Shaare Zedek (surgery, orthopedics, obstetrics, pediatrics); Hadassah Ein Kerem (pediatrics). Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (internal, surgery). Netanya: Laniado.

POLICE 100
In emergencies dial 102. Otherwise, dial number of your local station as given in the front of the phone directory.

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FIRST AID 101
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Ashdod - 9551333 Kfar Sava - 9602222
Ashdod - 9551332 Nahariya - 9912333
BeerSheva - 8274767 Netanya - 9604444
Beit Shimon - 6523133 P. Thova - 9911111
Dan Region - 5793333 Rehovot - 9451333
Eilat - 9592444 Rishon - 9452333
Haifa - 9512233 Safed - 6926265
Jerusalem - 6523133 Tel Aviv - 5450111
Karmiel - 9985444 Tiberias - 6792444

Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) service in the area, around the clock. Hot line for English-speakers, crisis counseling and referrals, all ages/procedures. (02) 654-1111, toll-free 1-800-654-1111.
Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-022-9110.
The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital, phone 04-852-9205 for emergency calls 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.
Eran - Emotional First Aid - 1201, also Jerusalem 561-0308, Tel Aviv 546-1111 (children/youth 546-0739), Rishon LeZion 955-660/2, Haifa 867-2222, BeerSheva 649-4335, Netanya 965-5110, Karmiel 688-3770, Kfar Sava 767-4555, Hadara 634-6788.
Rape Crisis Center (24 hours), Tel Aviv 525-4615, 544-9191 (mor), Jerusalem 625-5558, Haifa 893-0593, Eilat 633-1877.
Crisis Center for Religious Women 02-655-5744/5, 24-hour service, confidentially guaranteed.
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Wizo hotlines for battered women 02-651-4111, 03-540-1133, 07-687-6910, 08-855-0506.
Kupat Holim Information Center 177-022-1906, Sunday-Thursday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Hadassah Jerusalem Municipal Health Center for Adolescents, 6 Chilo St., Kiryat Hayovel, Jm. Advice by phone 02-643-3882.
Hadassah Medical Organization - Israel Cancer Association telephone support service 02-624-7676.
Flight arrivals - for information in English 03-972-3344.

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More help needed as winter sets in

By BEVERLEE BLACK

We Jews don't seem to be able to agree on much. And I'm not talking about politics or religious matters. I'm talking about El Nino.

Will it be a winter of snow, hail and sleet or the normal winter of just rain and floods? They are even arguing about that.

But there's one thing I do know. As winter approaches, the demands put upon our Forsake Me Not Fund quadruples, as senior citizens without blankets, warm clothing and heaters ask the municipal social workers for help.

So, El Nino or no, I need your help to fulfill a winter demand. Please don't let the old folks down. A warm heart can supply a wealth of much-needed solace on a cold winter day.

Hanukkah is only five weeks away, but contributions to the Toy Fund have not yet picked up sufficiently to enable us to meet our obligations to the thousands of youngsters living in government institutions and in foster care.

Many of these institutions, which have a long-term association with the Toy Fund, have already put in their requests for toys and games, but there simply isn't enough money to meet half of their needs.

Please help us make the lighting of the first candle a joyful event for all of them.

Many students are turning to us for help in paying their university tuition. Unfortunately, donations to the Welcome Home Fund do not seem to be picking up. That leaves us no choice but to turn down their requests - unless our readers come to our aid.

There's still a long way to go before we reach the home stretch for all three funds. We can't make it without that extra spurt of energy and help from you. Let's make this a much better year for our fellow citizens in need.

Remember, no one ever got poor from giving charity.

Mail your checks to: The Jerusalem Post Funds, P.O. Box 31, Jerusalem 91000.

Donors in the United States wishing to receive tax benefits, can send their donations to: Friends of The Jerusalem Post Funds, 211 E. 43rd Street, New York, NY 10017. Please designate in your letter to which fund you wish to donate.

FORSAKE ME NOT

NIS 250 Rita and Adi Zinger, Tel Aviv.

NIS 200 in memory of my aunt Berna Lewin - Charles Rosenzweig, J'm. Key Robins, Kfar Sava. In loving memory of my dear husband, Harry, who passed away November 23, 1994, deeply mourned by his wife Eve and his children Anthony and Janet Olenig, Kibbutz Kfar Blum.

NIS 100 Pinkas Family, Kfar Karmel. In memory of my father's birthday in November. In memory of my parents - Rosalie Sobel, Netanya. Ruth Poliak, Haifa.

NIS 75 Edward Ryden, Beit Hakerem.

NIS 75 Renate and Itzhak Unna, Haifa. In loving memory of our parents Riffa and Sender Milman - Hannah Tanenbaum, Bernike Silberstein, Matalat.

NIS 50 in loving memory of Dr. Tuvia Bar Ilan - Tmima Bar Ilan, Holon.

NIS 20 Mr. Hilbert, Ra'anana.

\$500 C. and L. J'm.

\$200 Mens Club of Temple Beth

Am, Margate, FL.

\$100 in memory of Elie, Lene and Marcus Lieber from Netanya and Buenos Aires - Rodolfo Kohn, Spain.

In memory of my dear mother, Helen Esther yahrzeit - Baruch Kolhof, Apeldoorn, Netherlands. In memory of Elie, Lene and Marcus Lieber from Netanya and Buenos Aires - Rodolfo Kohn, Spain.

\$108 Jeanne R. Turkel, J'm.

\$85 Felix Levenbach, Tucson, AZ.

\$50 in memory of my mother, Celia Spector - Louise Leibman, Merion Station, PA. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Stamm, Philadelphia, PA. (via PEF).

\$36 in memory of Leon and Ullian Epstein and Theodore and Ruth Lotz - Robert Epstein, Philadelphia, PA. (via PEF).

\$25 Raoul Kunszt, New York, NY.

\$20 in memory of Arthur T. Spence - Maxine Blochman, Los Angeles, CA. Hilda Corak, Arnold, MD. (via PEF).

Aus. Sch. 4, 258 Gunter and Gertrude Potas, Eisenstadt, Austria.

New Progress

Donations

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NIS 1,671.65

\$1,174

\$41,069.01

(other currencies converted into shekels)

WELCOME HOME FUND

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Inside

Kafelnikov routs Chang at ATP finals

Muster steps in after Rusedski pulls out; Bjorkman wins

Hawks win, but Bulls lose again

p. 23

Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

WEATHER and CHANCE

Local and international weather, as well as results of daily Chance and lottery drawings, now appear on the inside back page.

Capital derby day dominates weekend soccer

By ORI LEWIS

Jerusalem derby day is upon us once again.

One of the most colorful of local National League fixtures will, almost uniquely, be a clash between two sides high up in the standings.

The reds of Hapoel, in sixth place, and the league this season (for the first time in 26 years), they will be the underdogs for the match against Betar, who have recovered from a mediocre start to the season, to climb into second place.

Hapoel's young lineup will miss veteran midfielder Michel Dayan, 36, who has almost become a club mascot. He is suspended.

Betar will take to the Teddy Stadium pitch tomorrow at 17:15 without several key players: The injured Eli Ohana, and Stefan Saloi and Yossi Abukasis who is suspended.

Before the kickoff Hapoel will honor some of their old-timers, who led the club to the capital's first soccer trophy - the State Cup - in 1973. This weekend's national League fixtures (all matches kick off tomorrow unless stated):

Hapoel Petah Tikva v. Hapoel Kfar Sava, Petah Tikva 14:30; Hapoel Ashdod v. Hapoel Be'er Sheva, Ashdod, today 14:00; Maccabi Herzliya v. Ironi Rishon LeZion, 16:30; Hapoel Tel Aviv v. Hapoel Haifa, Bloomfield 17:00; Hapoel Jerusalem v. Beitar Jerusalem, Teddy Stadium 17:15; Maccabi Haifa v. Maccabi Tel Aviv, Kfar Sava 18:30; Beitar Yotvata v. Ironi Ashdod, Hadera Quarter 14:30; Hapoel Beit She'an v. Maccabi Petah Tikva, Beit She'an, today 14:00.

HANNOVER (Reuters) - Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov made sure of a semifinal berth in the ATP Tour world championship yesterday by demolishing world No. 2 Michael Chang 6-3 6-0.

The second qualifier from the white group will be the winner of Friday's match between Chang and Swede Jonas Bjorkman, who kept his hopes alive by taming Sergi Bruguera 6-3 6-1.

The other quartet, the red group, in the elite end-of-season event is still wide open and much will depend on the outcome of the much-awaited clash between American Pete Sampras and Australian Patrick Rafter today.

Sampras, the world No. 1, needs a win to guarantee a last four place while the US Open champion only has to take a set off his opponent to go through.

Briton Greg Rusedski, who had lost both his matches, pulled out yesterday with a sore hamstring. His late replacement, Austrian Thomas Muster, went down 6-2 6-3 to Spaniard Carlos Moya in the red group. Moya beat Sampras in the tournament's opening match.

Chang was left to meditate a Bible verse after being totally outclassed by an inspired Kafelnikov in the \$3.3 million event.



HITTING THE SWEET SPOT - Yevgeny Kafelnikov hits a forehand drive at Michael Chang during the Russian's 6-3, 6-0 demolition of his American opponent in Hannover yesterday. (Reuters)

event. "You know, there's a verse that says 'Forgetting what is

behind and straining toward what is ahead,'" he said. Kafelnikov had underlined

his ambitions by taming Bjorkman in straight sets in his opening match and lived up to

his nickname of "kalashnikov," firing astonishing winners almost at will throughout the match.

"I don't think I can play much better than this," said the Russian, back to his best after being sidelined for more than three months early this year with a broken finger.

Bjorkman was just as impressive but his task was made easier by Bruguera being hampered by painful ribs.

"I felt pain in my ribs, a muscle was tight and I feared I might pull it," said the Spaniard.

Asked if he would play his last round-robin match against Kafelnikov today, he said: "I don't think I'm going to play because I have so much pain. First of all, I'll see the doctor, then I'll decide if I play or not."

Rusedski, the first Briton to appear in the eight-man gathering, was clearly diminished by his injury when he lost 6-4 7-5 to Sampras on Wednesday.

"Two different doctors told me that it was not going to get any better and advised me to take a week off," said Rusedski before packing.

His withdrawal came as good news to Moya, who had a quiet evening against Muster in Hannover's high-tech hall packed with 14,000 noisy fans.



VALUED AMERICAN - Ken Griffey Jr.

Griffey Jr. unanimous as AL MVP

NEW YORK (AP) - Ken Griffey Jr. is tired of the great expectations. Now that he's won his first Most Valuable Player award, he thinks he deserves a break.

"All my life in professional baseball, people said 'He could be better,'" Griffey said Wednesday after becoming only the ninth unanimous American League MVP.

"There's always a but after everything I've done," he said.

"You get tired of somebody saying, 'He hit 49 but he didn't do something else.' It's not fair." Griffey had finished close in previous MVP voting: second in 1994, fourth last year and fifth in 1993. He thinks no matter what he does, people won't be satisfied.

"I go out there every day, take early batting practice, fly balls. Every day I get asked questions: 'What's next for you?'" he said during a conference call after the voting was announced. It's hard to imagine he can improve very much on this year.

Griffey hit 304 for Seattle, led the AL with 56 homers and finished first in the majors with 147 RBIs.

He led the AL in runs (125), total bases (393) and slugging percentage (.646) and won his eighth consecutive Gold Glove for his defense in center field.

No wonder he received all 28 first-place votes and 392 points in balloting by the Baseball Writers Association of America.

He's the first unanimous AL pick since Chicago's Frank Thomas in 1993, and the 13th unanimous selection overall.

"This award means a lot," Griffey said. "Kids always think about being the MVP."

Griffey, winning an honor his father never did during 19 seasons in the majors, had 24 homers through May but just five in June and three in July before getting hot again.

He said dealing with the death of his mother-in-law held down his numbers.

"That's why I struggled in July," he said.

Griffey's home-run total matched the seventh-most in a single season, and his 294 homers already is 76th on the career list.

On April 25, he became the fourth-youngest player to reach 250 homers, trailing only Jimmie Foxx, Eddie Mathews and Mel Ott.

Griffey's father, Ken Sr., finished with 159 homers. He was ninth in NL MVP voting in 1976 with 49 points and got one 10th-place vote in 1980. The two were together last week at an awards show in Florida.

Seattle's loss to Baltimore in the first round of the playoffs still stung.

"He asked me if I wanted to borrow his World Series ring."

Hopefully, I'll get mine in '98," Griffey said. "He has three; I don't have any." Griffey would rather play for a Series winner than win MVP awards.

"There are no bragging rights," he said. "He still has the (replica World Series) trophy at the house. He has the flags hanging off the mantle and I don't. That's what our family plays baseball for, those flags, and that's what I want."

New York Yankees first baseman Tim Lincecum was second with 24 second-place votes and four thirds for 248 points, followed by Thomas (172 points) and Baltimore reliever Randy Myers (128).

For winning the award, Griffey gets a \$150,000 bonus.

FIFA end dispute over Ronnen Harazi

MADRID (Reuters) - FIFA, world soccer's governing body, have ordered Salamanca to pay Betar Jerusalem \$1.15 million for striker Ronnen Harazi, officials at the Spanish club said yesterday.

FIFA's intervention brings an end to the dispute between the two clubs over how much Harazi was worth. Salamanca had valued the 27-year-old signing at \$800,000.

Harazi has a reputation as a prolific scorer and has found the net 19 times in 36 appearances for Israel. But he has yet to score in the league for struggling Salamanca who lie second from bottom of the Spanish first division.

Maccabi gets boost with 76-68 win over Real

Ulker Istanbul routs hapless Hapoel Jerusalem, 74-56

By BRIAN FREEMAN
and ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Maccabi Tel Aviv snapped its four-game EuroLeague losing streak with an impressive 76-68 victory over Real Madrid in Spain last night.

The win, only Maccabi's second victory in Madrid against Real in 16 all-time attempts (the other was in 1987), keeps the Israelis in a realistic hunt for one of the top three spots in the group and the right to play the bottom three clubs in Group B in the league's next stage.

Maccabi, which led the entire game, was paced by 21 points by both Oded Katash and Randy White, who played his best game for Tel Aviv this season.

Maccabi was also bolstered by key contributions from two players, Constantin Popa (11 points) and Borko Radovic (4 points) in the last 1:20 of play to keep the Spaniards at bay, who in the previous six EuroLeague games had only scored a total of six points between them.

The game started in a similar

fashion to Maccabi's 87-82 home victory over Real in September, with the blue-and-yellow forcing turnovers on defense, executing the offense patiently, and controlling the boards at both ends of the court.

Tel Aviv jumped out to a 26-12 lead in the first 12 minutes and held on to take a 38-30 advantage into the locker room.

White not only contributed 11 points in the period but blocked a shot, grabbed six rebounds and hustled after two loose balls to save possession for Maccabi.

The second half started ominously for Maccabi, as Rashard Griffith went to the bench after committing his fourth foul seconds into the period and Joe Arlauckas scored to cut the margin to 38-32.

But instead of wilting under the pressure, Maccabi responded with a 24-12 run over the next 11 minutes to build a 62-44 lead, thanks largely to inspired play by Popa, who came in for Griffith.

He not only kept Real out of the paint on defense, but also grabbed several offensive rebounds and scored 11 points before fouling out with a minute remaining in the game.

Real exploited a Maccabi defense in deep foul trouble to mount a comeback in the last eight minutes of the contest, narrowing Tel Aviv's margin to only 69-63 with just under two minutes left to play.

But then Radovic came off the bench to coolly hit all four of his free-throw attempts, and Real

was never able to get closer. Alberto Angulo paced Real with 15 points, while the team's leading scorers, Arlauckas and Dejan Bodiroga, were held to 11 and 12 points respectively.

For Maccabi, White and Katash had 21, Popa 11, Sheffer 7, Leaf 5, Griffith and Radovic 4 and Henefeld 3.

In other action in Group A, Olympiakos lost its first game 77-58 at CSKA Moscow, Maccabi's opponents next week at Yad Eliahu, and Efes Pilsen pulled off a last-second victory at home over Limoges 65-64.

Ulker 74, Hap. Jerusalem 56

Five honeymoon couples would have been far more deserving of the trip to Turkey than Hapoel Jerusalem took than coach Efi Birnbaum's club, which went down to an embarrassing 74-56 (halftime 39-26) defeat at the hands of Ulker Istanbul last night.

Playing as if they hardly cared, Birnbaum's team fell behind early and seemed happy to stay there.

A brief rally in the first half brought them within a point at 15-14, but then they appeared content to slip back into low gear and disappear for the rest of the evening.

Only Kenny Williams, who played despite back and rib injuries and hauled down 15 rebounds unofficially, and Doron Shefa, who had some bright moments on offense, showed any indication of realizing they were in an important

EuroLeague game. The rest of the team should have a hard time looking themselves in the mirror this morning after offering very little in the way of hustle or fight.

The most troubling part of the evening was that the Turks didn't even play outstanding basketball. As usual, they relied on their threesome of Harun Erdenay, Kenny Green and Michael Anderson, and that was more than enough against the woeful Jerusalem display.

Only H. Waldman and Shefa seemed interested in attacking the basket, and though Adi Gordon hit a three-pointer relatively early in the first half, he managed just eight points on the night in yet another sub-par EuroLeague performance.

Or maybe we're just kidding ourselves. Maybe last night's game is par for this club in Europe. It sure seemed that way in the second half when Jerusalem appeared out to break the record for committing turnovers.

Rarely did players get back on defense in time to stop the speedy Anderson, who even chipped in a rare three-pointer at the end of the game.

Ulker improved its chances for a shot at third place, Jerusalem is almost assured of finishing last in their group unless they can recover from their last two European shellackings.

Raidav Curcic led Jerusalem with 16 points, while Williams had 13. Motti Daniel had another horrible game, with just four points on the night.

EuroLeague Group A		
	W	Pts.
Olympiakos	5	13
CSKA Moscow	4	11
Efes Pilsen	4	11
Maccabi Tel Aviv	3	10
Limoges	2	8
Real Madrid	2	8

EuroLeague Group C		
	W	Pts.
Barcelona	5	12
Kinder Bologna	5	11
Partizan Belgrade	4	11
Ulker	3	10
Pau-Orthez	2	8
Hapoel Jerusalem	1	8

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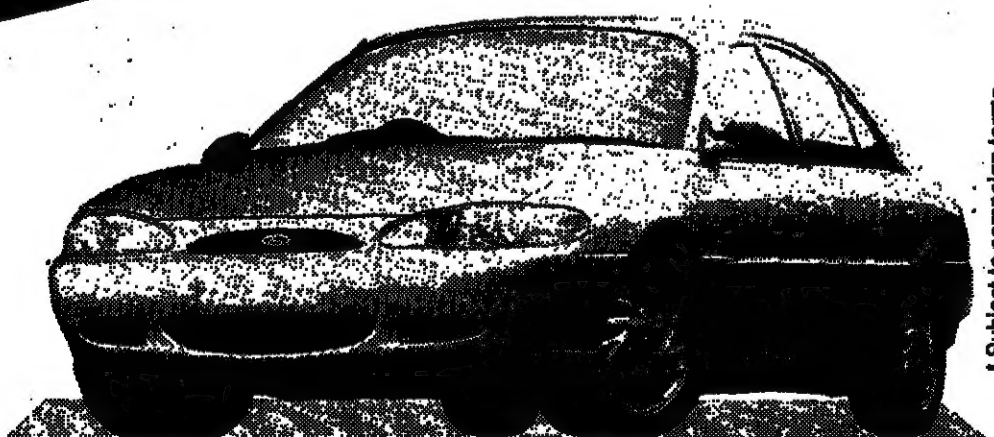
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FIFA end dispute over Ronnen Harazi

MADRID (Reuters) - FIFA, world soccer's governing body, have ordered Salamanca to pay Betar Jerusalem \$1.15 million for striker Ronnen Harazi, officials at the Spanish club said yesterday.

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